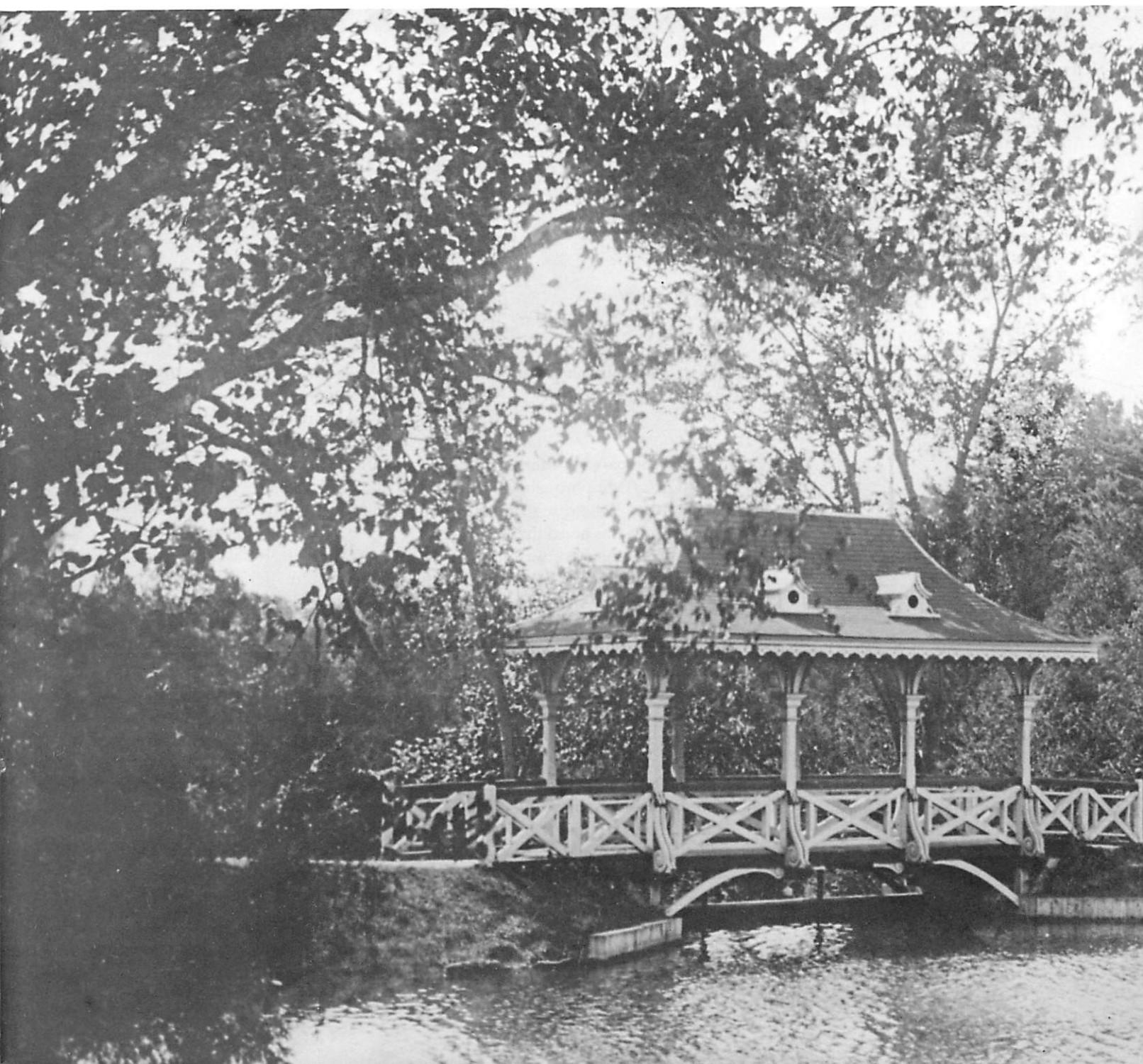


ACORN

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc. Newsletter



Summer 1989



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A society incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the province, and for the protection of its places of natural beauty.

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The Pagoda Bridge, Jackson Park, Peterborough, Ontario

In a report prepared by Martha Ann Kidd for PACAC (Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee) in March 1987 it was noted that the original owner of Jackson Park was the Nicholls Park Trust, set up to manage bequests left by Charlotte Jane Nicholls (née Jackson) on her death in 1890, \$60,000 of which was to be allocated for the purchase and improvement of public parks and recreational grounds. In 1893 thirty acres, including a quarry site, north-west of downtown Peterborough, were purchased from Mrs. Dixon. Improvements were put in hand in 1894 under the direction of the Town's Engineer and well-known local architect, John E. Belcher, C.E., who, incidentally, became President of the Ontario Association of Architects for 1899.

A lake was created by damming a stream passing through the property and Belcher was the architect for the charming Pagoda Bridge, described as "newly painted in drab and dark crimson" by the Peterborough Examiner in July 1895. Again it displays these colours, more a light ochre gold and Tuscan red, and a very pleasing combination. Restoration was under the direction of Jon Hobbs, architect, of Peterborough, the work undertaken largely by Sir Sandford Fleming College carpentry students. But in 1986 the threat was to replace the bridge with a far cheaper modern steel structure until local citizens banded together to preserve this, their landscape landmark. With the efforts of many volunteers and a Save the Pagoda Bridge Committee ably commanded by ACO member Betty Farquharson, fundraising proceeded and a joyful opening, seen in the accompanying photograph, took place on 25 June of this year.

Cover: The Pagoda Bridge in Peterborough's Jackson Park, designed by local architect John E. Belcher and constructed in 1895; restored and re-opened in 1989. From a picture taken about 1910.

Photo courtesy Roy Studio, Peterborough

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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The Intern's Report on the organization and activities of the ACO has been received and considered by the Programme Development Committee. The Branches were invited to comment on the various recommendations, and their responses indicate that they are in general agreement. As Chairman of the committee I am recommending to Council that the recommendations of the report be implemented as soon as possible.

Some of the recommendations have been discussed at Council level. A motion has been passed to the effect that the ACO should not undertake the role of an umbrella organization for LACACs, and responsibility for making a province-wide inventory of buildings of significant heritage interest has been declined. While these suggestions are admirable in themselves they are well beyond the present capabilities of the ACO.

Some of the recommendations have been implemented already; meetings of Council are now held every second month, on Saturday rather than Thursday; the Executive Committee has been re-activated and other committees are being augmented; a new branch has been established in Oxford County; a brochure of walking tours of the Quinte Region Branch is being prepared; and the format of ACORN is being revised (as evidenced by this present issue).

Some of the recommendations may have to be implemented as the opportunity arises, as was the purchase of the property in Camden East for renovation and resale.

Consideration of the Intern's Report has underscored two of the ACO's continuing problems - limited human resources and meagre funding. These problems are identified as among the more serious of the problems facing the ACO if it is to be more effective in carrying out its mandate, and must be resolved before the ACO can hire an Executive Director and subsequently expand to include the myriad activities envisioned by the report.

The Fundraising Committee is going to enjoy a new prominence. Ways and means will have to be found to meet the rising costs of the present operation, particularly the publication and distribution of ACORN. Further additional funding will be required to meet the financial obligations implicit in many of the recommendations of the Intern's Report.

Even more important, since they are crucial to the success of any fundraising effort, is the continued interest and participation of dedicated members. Broadening and strengthening of this membership base will be one of the top priorities in implementing the recommendations of the Intern's Report. Watch for increased activity in the areas of fundraising and membership. It is only through concerted effort that the ACO can grow.



EDITORIAL

THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario was incorporated in 1933 "for the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the province, and for the protection of its places of natural beauty".

The origins of this statement probably stem from the Conservancy's desire to protect and conserve Ontario's splendid natural areas, although it can be interpreted to include all areas of outstanding beauty including cultural or man-made landscapes such as cemeteries, streetscapes, parks, estate grounds, gardens, plazas and squares. This issue of *ACORN* focuses on our cultural landscape, much of it the setting for buildings, as the two complement one another. Most often, when architectural conservation is an issue, the setting for the building, its context, vistas to and from are given little thought or credence. Heritage designations under the Ontario Heritage Act, conservation grants and public opinion ignore, to a large extent, the cultural landscape. If a proposal to defile Algonquin Provincial Park were put forth, there would be public outcry. When a historic building of architectural merit is to be demolished or severely altered, there is a similar outcry. On the other hand, the widening of a public street that annihilates a historic streetscape or the development of a large estate for condominiums, or the redevelopment of a historic square or plaza are seen as the inevitable movement of progress or an overwhelming need for accommodation of traffic or simply bringing things up to date, or the only economically viable means to preserve a historic home. In the process, we lose the significance of open space, the setting for the things we wish to conserve, the historic and architectural context which gives relevance and meaning to the architectural context for which we care.

In my city, Guelph, like many other Ontario towns and cities, the older downtown and urban fringes to downtown were once complementary to the buildings that framed the spaces, that defined the edges of streets that punctuated the views. These spaces have disappeared or been so altered as to lose their significance. The wholesale removal of any vestige of the form of St. George's Square and its materials has occurred without public outcry or concern. Perhaps this is justified by the fact that the buildings that formed its edges have all been lost and redeveloped in a contemporary idiom. On the other hand, great effort has been made to conserve the Gothic edifice known as Kirkhaven. The building has been designated along with a minimal amount of its settings, the gardens and "park" are now condominium townhouses and single family homes, relegating the historic setting to a rather small and historically and architecturally inappropriate space. Kirkhaven is considered a success story, because of something of the landscape survives even if it can only been seen from one rather narrow public aspect. Other similar historically and architecturally significant open spaces have been even less lucky. In Oshawa, H.B. Dunington-Grubb's garden for Col. R.S. McLaughlin, Parkwood, is threatened by hospital expansion. Rather than dwell on the horror stories and the lack of foresight and success, perhaps we should look to identify those cultural landscapes that remain, those that are so important to the history of our towns and cities and seek solutions to their conservation. In Guelph, for example, two or three of originally dozens of estates like Kirkhaven remain. What is their fate? Is it inevitable that they will be developed in the mania to realize the highest return on investment? Will the buildings remain in inappropriate settings? Is there an alternative? This issue of *ACORN* focuses on some of those "places of natural beauty" that are as important to our understanding of ourselves as "best examples of architecture".

Owen Scott

Owen R. Scott, Landscape Architect and our Guest Editor is a partner in Landplan, a firm of landscape architects and environmental planners with headquarters in Guelph. For many years Owen Scott was Editor of *Landscape Architecture Canada*. His many interests include historic landscapes and he has written many articles on the subject. His schemes for the restoration of a number of gardens include that at the Mill House adjoining the Millcroft Inn in Alton, Langdon Hall in Blair, Woodside National Historic Park (boyhood home of William Lyon Mackenzie King) in Kitchener, and Dundurn Castle in Hamilton.

Nina Chapple, architectural historian, at present lives in Dundas where she has been active in that community's conservation movement. Currently Mrs. Chapple is now Architectural Historian in the City of Hamilton's Planning Department.

Marion Walker Garland, of Port Hope is our Editor Emeritus and keeps her finger on conservation's throbbing pulse locally.

Michael Keefe, editor for Brant County, member of Brantford LACAC.

Marg Rowell, now associate editor of North Waterloo, besides having been chairman of the City of Waterloo LACAC, and member of the executive of the Waterloo Historical Society, member and officer of the local ACO branch, has a personal interest in landscape, natural and cultural, as well as horticultural - when she has time.

Nancy Tausky, Editor for London Region responsible for that Branch's contribution, is not only a building conservationist but a writer, with numerous articles to her credit, and acting as co-author, with Lynne D. DiStephano of *Victorian Architecture in London and Southwestern Ontario: Symbols of Aspiration*, 1987.

Peter John Stokes, your Editor-in-Chief, keenly interested in landscape and the history of plant materials as well as the built environment.

Hamilton's Gore Park: The People's Park by Nina Chapple

Introduction

Over time, a community may develop certain features which are so essential to its collective memory and identity that their loss would be unthinkable. Yet, sometimes, the unthinkable does occur; it is often at this moment of crisis when a common will is born to rescue the endangered legacy and save it for future generations.

This is the story of Gore Park in Hamilton. One might ask why this small triangular wedge of landscaped property located in the heart of the city's downtown core has awakened such vehement emotions in its citizenry over its 173-year history. Could it be that Gore Park is a far more complex urban landmark than meets the eye?

Origins

From its beginning, Gore Park was plagued with assaults, requiring continued surveillance by those who cared. In 1816, when George Hamilton founded the new settlement, his legal deed donating this tract of land for public use was misplaced and in 1833 he found himself having to sue the town to prevent the building of a new markethouse on the land. The Court upheld George Hamilton's claim and the Gore was kept as a public promenade. Furthermore, Hamilton's original donation was based on an agreement with fellow landowner, Nathaniel Hughson, to donate an equal part to form "an oblong square"; this was never done, so the Gore acquired by default its distinctive triangular shape.

The battle, however, was not yet over: in 1847, the year of Hamilton's incorporation as a city, Council decided to sell Gore Park as lots and share the profits with George Hamilton's son, Robert, but seventy Hamilton property owners petitioned the provincial government and stopped the sale; in 1852, Council announced plans to erect a public building on the land and again the citizenry opposed it so strongly that Council relented; and by 1853, Council agreed to allow a park, but the cost of gravelling the land had to be paid by private citizens. Finally, in 1859, in anticipation of a royal visit to Hamilton, the City recognized the advantage of beautifying the Gore, and accepted the businessman's proposal of 1856 to decorate the park.



1. Gore Park, in the 1860s, shortly after completion.
(Photo courtesy of Hamilton Public Library,
Special Collections.)

"The Gore was to be enclosed by an iron fence which would have an entrance gate at each of the four corners. Trees, shrubs and flowers would be planted and a decorative fountain would be placed in the centre. Walkways would lead from the gates to the fountain. (Council Minutes, March 17, 1856)"

Evolution

This plan for Gore Park, simple and straightforward, was completed in time for the Prince of Wales's visit in 1860 when he formally opened the new Hamilton Waterworks at the Gore Park fountain. The park, then a scrawny but promising newborn, by the end of the century had



2. Gore Park, around the turn-of-the-century.
(Photo courtesy of Hamilton Public Library,
Special Collections)



3. Gore Park in 1983, during construction of the ill-fated improvement project. (Photo courtesy of the Hamilton LACAC.)

matured into a lovely and gracious urban landscape with a mantle of high shade overhead, an array of attractive flower beds - Hamilton's trademark - and as the centrepiece, the gracefully cascading Victorian fountain, symbolizing Hamilton's achievement in its waterworks project.



4. Gore Park in 1984 in its final form. (Photo courtesy of the Hamilton LACAC)

By the 1980s, however, the Edwardian grandeur had faded, many trees were in difficulty, the larger, in-ground fountain of the 1950s had replaced the free-standing Victorian sculpture, and planters, and various other objects had begun to clutter the grounds. The City decided to take action to renew the park.

The Crisis

The renewal procedure began in much the normal way, by hiring outside expertise to prepare a plan; it ended by galvanizing the public into action and catapulting the city into a political crisis.

The renewing of Gore Park, however, evolved into the development of an entirely new scheme, which responded to contemporary issues but at the cost of severing traditional ties. Briefly summarized, the series of events included the following: presentation of three alternatives by the consulting firm of Roger DuToit Associates of Toronto in 1982; the choice of the middle-priced #2 alternative (which retained the original boundaries of Gore Park but which incorporated such permanent structures as a food concession stand, stage backdrop and exhibition structure into the park); approval by Council in January 1983; the preparation of working drawings by city staff; and an efficient coordination among municipal departments. This led to the rapid removal of nearly all objects, animate and inanimate, from the park, including the trees which were deemed to be unhealthy. Only the lone figures of Queen Victoria and John A. MacDonald as well as the Cenotaph were left. Where formerly lawns, flower beds and a fountain had existed, geometric-shaped foundation forms had appeared; above these, concrete block walls began to rise a storey high. The trees were all gone. All this happened in the most public place in the city; Hamilton's Gore is a shopping place, a business centre, a major bus transfer location, and the juncture of the city's major east-west and north-south arteries. What began as lone voices of criticism rapidly grew into a ground swell of protest. No specialized activist group needed to be formed; objectors were everywhere.

Council's advisory committee on heritage matters, the Hamilton LACAC, began in October 1983 the formal process of re-

questing Council to halt any further development and dismantle all existing construction. Thrown into a crisis situation, Council listened to the public outcry and came to the courageous decision to terminate the Gore Park project, resulting in an estimated loss of \$319,000. The project had become a public failure. The repercussions were serious.

In the end, the new park, as designed by Moorhead, Fleming, Corban, McCarthy of Toronto, re-introduced the open, landscaped space lined with trees; the fountain, its association with the historic Hamilton Waterworks forgotten, was relegated to a corner position; and the central area was established as a place for performances, spectators or as a resting place. Today's Gore Park has retained many of its traditional functions, yet with different emphasis. Its appearance has changed accordingly; most notably, an open grassed area has replaced the central fountain.

Urban Park

How could the City's initial intent to improve Gore Park go so wrong? Could it be that this, Hamilton's earliest urban park, was little understood in the 1980s? After all, the city fathers in the 1850s had failed to see what Hamiltonians had wanted then. From historical accounts, we know that first and foremost, the city founders wanted an attractive urban park, much in the tradition of British residential squares which were in fashion when the settlers departed for their new home. From the beginning, Hamilton, with its temperate climate and favourable soil conditions, was valued as a garden centre; tree-lined streets, conservatories, domestic gardens, and horticultural events characterized the early settlement. Today, Hamilton has achieved an international reputation for its Royal Botanical Gardens and Chrysanthemum Show. With landscaped gardens a source of civic pride, it is no wonder then that Hamiltonians fought to keep their oasis of trees and flowers in the Gore.

Urban Square

But Gore Park is not just an urban park; it is also an urban square, albeit triangular in shape, enclosed by a continuous wall of buildings. It is situated not in the traditional residential area but rather in the

heart of the city's commercial district. Open landscape property situated amidst the most expensive real estate in the City obviously presents temptation - the temptation to sell or to put it to commercial use, witness the events of the 1850s and again in the 1980s. But it is just this dynamic juxtaposition of commerce and garden which distinguishes Gore Park from other early urban parks in Ontario.

The building wall enclosing the park consisted originally of a continuous three-to-four storey streetscape, a human-scale environment. Each subsequent decade, however, saw changes to the Gore's building fabric so that currently, the streetscapes exhibit a lively variety of architectural styles and a jagged skyline of building heights, yet still cohesive in the continuity of building wall and set-back. To date, a few buildings have reached such height and bulk as to prevent sunlight from reaching Gore Park for part of the day.

As an urban square, Gore Park became the city's focal point for celebrating, for protesting, and for remembering. When major events occurred, Gore Park was the traditional place where people congregated. Caught on photographs are Hamilton's highlights when Gore Park was teeming with people eager to see the Prince of Wales, Sir John A. MacDonald, the Fenian Raids march, the nine-hour-day labour movement protest, and V-E Day celebrations. Despite trampled flowers, the park always remained a park. Major gatherings and commemorative statues had to fit into the established landscape. Gore Park was never meant to be the European-styled paved square with a central statue, although the paving around the Queen Victoria's statue is somewhat reminiscent of this.

Pedestrian Place

Finally, Gore Park belongs to the people in the sense that it is the sole domain of the pedestrian. The diagonal pathways of the original plan made sense from the pedestrian point of view as they brought people through to the interior of the park and

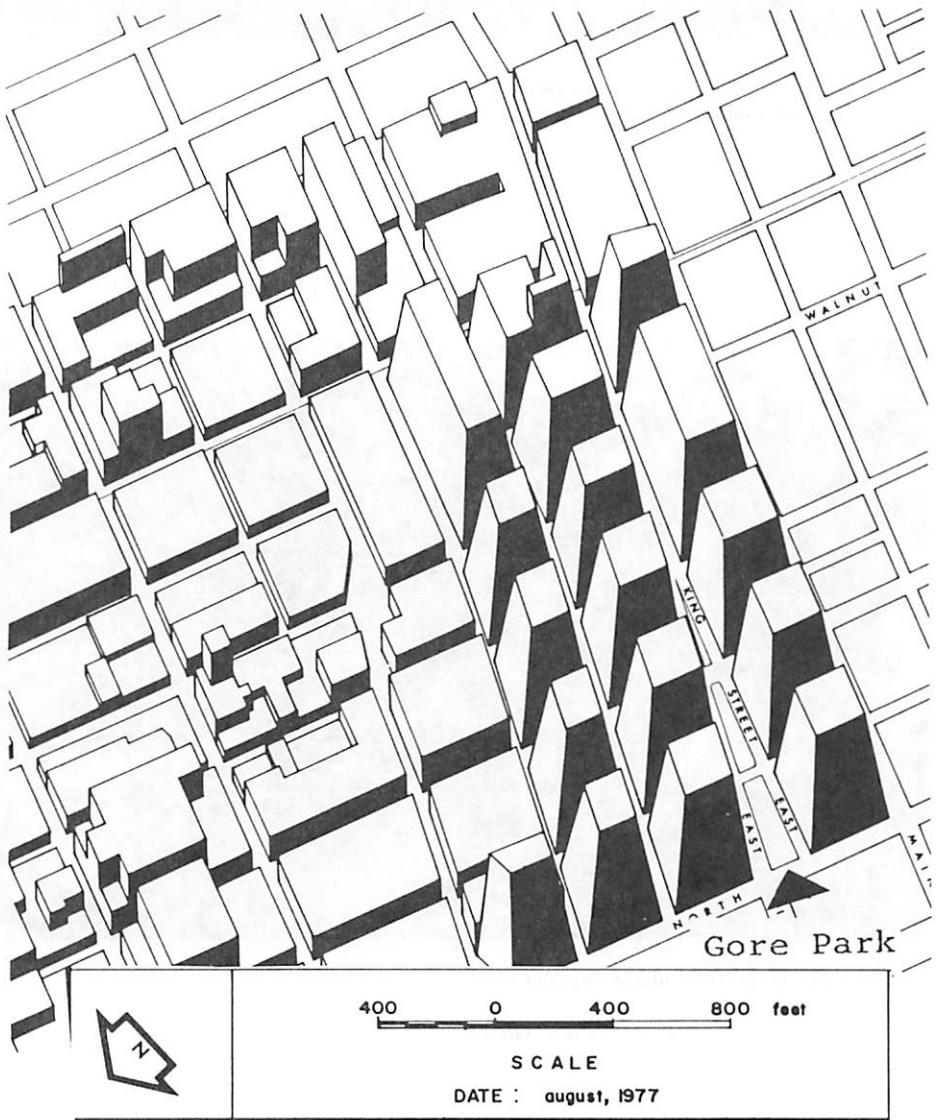
conveniently provided a choice of directions by which to leave. The consultant's third alternative - to insert a curving traffic route through the middle of the park, thereby dividing it in two - would have ended its role as a pedestrian island.

Conclusion

Today, the pendulum seems to be swinging back to an interest in urban design, in the quality of a city's open space, the quality of the urban environment as well as a growing concern with environmental pollution. Gore Park was created and nurtured by similar commitments and conditions; perhaps today we are wise enough to see

these values realized in Gore Park and, perhaps, too, we recognize there is a need to protect the Park for future generations.

But beware, the fight is still not over - the I-zoning on the surrounding properties allows redevelopment up to eighteen storeys in height. A monolithic building wall of this scale and magnitude could so overpower and overshadow the park, that Hamilton's garden oasis would virtually be lost - this time permanently. Without regulating building height, particularly on the south side of the park, this threat to Gore Park may be the most dangerous of all.



5. Axonometric drawing of downtown Hamilton, illustrating the maximum developable space permissible under the existing zoning height by-law, prepared by the Planning and Development Department, Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth.



Glenwood Cemetery, Picton, showing a corner of the chapel and the vault.



The rolling picturesque landscape of Picton's Glenwood Cemetery.

Photos by R.C. Greig

Glenwood Cemetery, Picton by Rodger C. Greig

There is no particular reason why people should be buried in a park, but when Picton's Glenwood Cemetery was laid out, about 1873, this romantic tradition was already forty years old, dating back to the time of Boston's trend-setting Mt. Auburn cemetery. A similar impulse built those Regency cottages with their verandahs and trellises all around and French windows leading out in every direction into gardens. Families were supposed to stroll about in the park-like cemeteries and have picnics among the monuments.

The creation of a naturally romantic effect, a 'poetical ensemble' was virtually assured at Glenwood by the choice of site, a break-neck little valley where the roads must wind to get around the woodsy hillocks and most views of the town's suburbs are cut off by the lie of the land.

Other graveyards - Cherry Valley's, for instance, may line 'em up and keep 'em trimmed and remove anything such as a fence that might obstruct the machine. Thurlow's Victoria Cemetery, on its largely level ground, is pretty straight and neat, and any plant that comes in the way of the mower may be given 'a setback'.

Glenwood shows few signs of actual design, apart from the initial layout of the curving roads and the choice of a mixture of evergreen and deciduous forest trees. Just keeping the grass cut is an expensive project where many of the graves and trees are on slopes almost too steep to climb, but it's almost all the landscaping the place requires and the wild picturesqueness of the ever-changing views is practically self-sustaining.

A Glance at Brant County by Michael Keefe

Brantford takes pride in its many parks, from minuscule street-corner "parkettes" to grand public squares and others providing lengthy hiking and fitness trails. They range in size from a twentieth of an acre to 184 acres. Nearly five and one half per cent of the City area is devoted to public open space.

From a heritage point of view, the most notable is Victoria Park, Brantford's principal public square gracing the city's centre. Like so much of value, Victoria Park is an example of something once so common that no one really thought it would become so rare. These many parks were laid out in a Union Jack pattern, with walks from the centres of four sides and from the corners meeting in the middle. Such parks were established in the days of pride in Empire, in Queen and Country. Alas, these "Union Jack" parks are now scarce, having fallen victim to "progress".

Brantford's Victoria Park has, at its centre, a splendid monument of Joseph Brant, the loyalist Six Nations leader who brought his people from New York State to British North America after the American Revolution, and his companions. Now over a century old, the monument was restored to its pristine glory about the time of its centennial.

Victoria Park has not been without threats. Within the last ten years, there was a serious proposal to erase it completely and to replace its ordered geometry with a free form. The new plans were certainly admirable and would have created a very pleasing park, and the alarm of conservationists was certainly not with the aesthetics of the proposed design. Rather, we were appalled at the prospect of the destruction of an historic and already delightful area. Although it was a challenge to replace it with something equally appealing, the city fathers are certainly to be commended for deciding ultimately not to make any major changes.

Victoria Park is the grand central space of Brantford. Facing it are the County Court House and, at one corner, the City Hall. Our Carnegie Library serves culture on one side along with three churches tending our spiritual needs. Two banks and the head office of the Canadian Foresters



The Joseph Brant monument in Brantford's Victoria Park, (1.6 acres), with the County Courthouse in the background.

Mutual Insurance Society also look on. Bell Canada has a building on the park, whose portico shelters a statue of Alexander Graham Bell, reminiscent of Lincoln's statue in the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. Bell is seated, looking out on Victoria Park, largely as it was when he, as a local citizen, invented the telephone.



Zion United Church, Darling Street, Brantford. One of the churches overlooking Victoria Park.

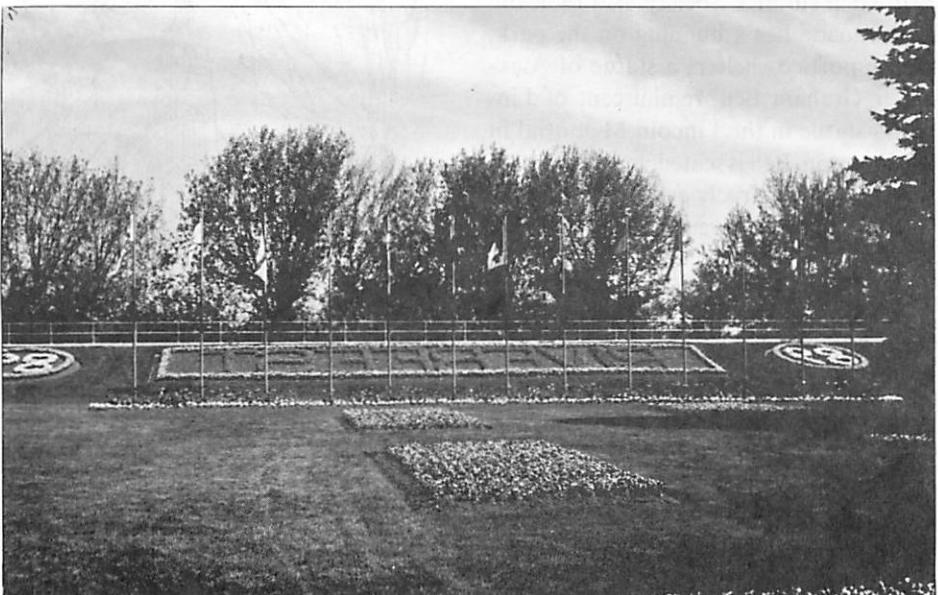
Sketch by Helga Sen



The tree-lined path through Lincoln Square, one of Brantford's smaller parks (0.49 acres)



Lawn bowling in Dufferin Park (5.46 acres) Brantford.



Decorated dike in Brantford's Lorne Park (5.1 acres)
Photos by M. Keefe

In addition to the City's parks, the Grand River Conservation Authority maintains four parks in Brant County, totalling over a thousand acres. These provide camping and hiking facilities as well as preserve the natural environment. Because of the capricious nature of the Grand River, the Authority maintains several miles of dikes, protecting especially Brantford and Paris against flooding. These are evident along both the Grand and the Nith Rivers.

Private groups provide large tracts of open space such as golf and country clubs and the Kiwanis-Apps Mill Centre. Even Brantford has its "garbage hill", started many years ago as a pile of refuse on city-owned land, eventually to become a park, providing skiing and sledding trails.

In the nineteenth century, Brantford was the head of navigation of the Grand River Navigation Company, now defunct, but which, in its heyday provided Brantford's early transport, attempting to tame the river by building dams to deepen the channel, canal and lock bypasses where it could not be navigated. Many of these man-made changes to the river are still visible, although no longer in commercial use.

Our intervention in the natural landscape is virtually everywhere: there is very little landscape visible that is not in some respect man-made. Even where the earth's natural contours have been preserved, the plantings are primarily artificial and little is left to nature's whim.

Brantford owes its open space system and many of its fine parks to H.B. Dunington-Grubb's "Parks Study" for the City, carried out in the 1920s.

Trees, Please, with Feeling by Rodger C. Greig

"Ya don't wanna go there; they got trees"
-a city slum child returning from summer camp

"I'm not going to plant any more trees you-have-to-rake-the-leaves."
- resident of hamlet whose chief glory is its mature maples

I for one have always been a lover of trees. Not so much the 'ornamentals' I knew as a youngster in New York, where our garden and all the surrounding streets had been planted by the Olmstead firm with everything that would bloom most picturesquely and then drop disagreeable petals, fruits or pods on to the sidewalks. No, I mean the great trees of West Toronto streets, which must, when I first knew them in 1940, have just reached their glorious perfection. Avenues of forest trees that shed mountains of leaves in autumn to be fragrantly burned or else carted off by leisurely horse-drawn wagons.

I've always had my own forest, of course, a hundred acres or more of New Hampshire hillside and valley, where I've seen the trees grow up, fall down in the 1938 Hurricane, grow again, fall in a 1954 tornado, and be harvested several times along the way.

When my grandfather acquired the New Hampshire property about 1899 the hills were more or less open pasture, and I have photographs to prove it. Even when I was a child the hills that I remember were grassy, criss-crossed with fence-rows, cows grazing up against the sky.

But who farms now? The familiar roads run through a tunnel of foliage with no view. Where classically-inspired white farmhouses once surveyed the sunny fields now latter-day pioneers hack through the jungly forest to erect factory-made log cabins. Trailer parks and condominium developments proliferate among the trees. The rows of white pines that my grandfather delighted to plant - some of which I remember being chastised for jumping over as a child - have long ago grown into stately hedges that block our views. Where once golf and



County road collision: the tree lost! Between Cherry Valley and Picton.

tennis were played is now trees. We used to watch thunderstorms approaching grandly from miles up the western valley. Now we're just in the woods.

To the pioneers in Upper Canada, the forest was the enemy. Certainly there were cultivated folk like Anne Langton who appreciated fine trees, but as she and others discovered it's almost impossible to save specimens when levelling a forest. It

can't have been till the 1850s and later that our town streets and country roads began, in a wave of nostalgia, to be lined again with forest trees, thanks to a change of heart and even government encouragement.

The huge trees we all remember along our streets and roads didn't just happen to grow there, for the most part. The tree-planting movement gained momentum



Where trees are lost, sacrificing the quiet, domestic character of one of Picton's side streets, Paul, slated for rebuilding as a thoroughfare to new development.



Picton: downtown Main Street, east section. Trees would help!

with the institution of Arbor Day soon after 1870. But the thickly-spaced trees that our great grandfathers planted have been disappearing fast over the past forty years. We have removed some as obstructing snow removal or littering our lawns or dropping branches on our roofs or electric wires. Some have died of age and been replaced with 'ornamentals' or with nothing at all. In many cases we have

simply widened the road in the name of traffic and cut them all down as though God would provide.

Now there is a panic that with the destruction of the tropical forests, in South America and such places, the very world's climate may be in danger. It's the same perception that led to cries here a century and more ago for conservation and edu-

cation and replanting, when North America's forests were being mercilessly logged and destroyed. In my own little world, though, of Prince Edward County and New Hampshire, I have to laugh. Street and road plantings are being criminally neglected, it is true, but the fields that used to be worked are filling up oppressively, with the demise of agriculture, and I suppose that both places where I live now have more trees than they have had for a hundred years or more. Our landscape is entering a new phase, shall we say.

Town architecture does not necessarily need trees in order to be pleasing and satisfactory, much as it pains me as a product of the Garden Cities movement to say it. Many a medieval town street is highly picturesque that has no greenery. Many an eighteenth-century Georgian streetscape, such as some at Bath, is well-proportioned and wholly delightful, that would only be spoiled by the introduction of plantings.

Of course, some streets are designed to make use of nature. The Royal Crescent at Bath confronts a bucolic landscape across the road, but its own perfection would be spoiled by dooryard trees or vines. Some nineteenth century streets like Glasgow's Great Western Road or Boston's Commonwealth Avenue are more like walls enclosing a park-like mall down the centre, and the trees have become an essential part of the composition.

People in Ontario have nearly always built with trees in mind. The miscellaneous, individualistic character of the buildings in our streets depends on trees to complement, unite or mask the architecture. What a sorry sight the western, residential, end of Napanee's main street will be when the magnificent old trees have all been taken down -in about three year's time, I should think, the way they are going. And it's not that there are not some fine and interesting houses there.

Picton's commercial main street has benefited astonishingly from the planting seven or eight years ago of locust trees which have thrived exceedingly and improved the view no end. With kitschy 'colonial' lamp standards, brick stripes in the pavements, and locust trees, I think every town must have hired the same consultants. But



Picton's downtown: Main Street, west section. Trees do a good job.

the trees at least are welcome and do help to make up for architectural inadequacies, as the old overhanging signs and flapping canvas awnings once did too.

I'm just back from a visit to the Shetland Islands. Peat and heather as far as the eye can see - no trees at all, for they won't grow - nothing but hills, sea and sky - grey stone enclosures here and there to keep a few sheep in or out - empty walls of abandoned crofts on a hundred hillsides - clusters of six or eight inhabited houses by some rocky beach. The people have North Sea oil money now and are just as up-to-date as you or I, but their electric lines do not run along their roads to disfigure them as ours do, and their telephone lines everywhere are buried underground. Ontario's arrangements seem primitive and makeshift by comparison. And one has to think of re-assessing the place of trees in the landscape.



No trees - but no powerlines either - along the road.
Norwick, Isle of Unst, Shetland.

Photos by R.C. Greig.

Arbor Day

by Rodger C. Greig

A pamphlet has come to hand, "*Trees and Tree-Planting, with Exercises and Directions for the Celebration of Arbor Day*", prepared by John B Peaslee, superintendent of Cincinnati Public Schools in 1884. Alarmed at the disappearance of Ohio's forests during the 1850s, 60s and 70s, with changes in climate, floods, and loss of fertility, stimulated by the nationwide celebrations of the Centennial of America's 1776 Revolution (and, in the case of Cincinnati in particular, inspired by the visit of Baron Richard von Steuben, who was not only a descendant of the Revolutionary hero but actually the Royal Chief Forester of the German Empire, where forests had been carefully managed since the time of Frederick the Great), a committee called together the first meeting of the American Forestry Congress in Cincinnati April 25th, 26th and 27th, 1882. Most

of the distinguished foresters of the United States and Canada were present. The state governor proclaimed April 27th as Arbor Day and some of the proceedings were as follows:

"The public schools were dismissed on the 26th and 27th to enable the teachers and pupils to take part in the celebration of tree-planting in Eden Park. The city was in holiday attire. The soldiery and organized companies of citizens formed an immense procession under command of Col. S.A. Whitfield and marched to the park, where the command was turned over to Col. A.E. Jones, the officer in charge. The school children were under the charge of Superintendent Peaslee. Fifty thousand citizens covered the grassy slopes and crowning ridges, those assigned to the work of tree-

planting taking their respective places. At the firing of the signal gun, "Presidents' Grove," "Pioneers' Grove," "Battle Grove," "Citizens' Memorial Grove," and "Authors' Grove," were planted and dedicated with loving hands and appropriate ceremonies.

Addresses followed. "No sight more beautiful, no ceremonies more touching, had ever been witnessed in Cincinnati. An important lesson in forestry had, indeed, been brought home to the hearts of the people ... This was the first Arbor Day celebration in Ohio."

Nebraska had been first, we believe, in 1872, but no mention of that is made here, and the pamphlet goes on to tell just how to celebrate Arbor Day according to the "Cincinnati Plan", with plenty of readings for the use of schools.



Once a ravine alongside Sherbourne Street, tree-filled like the growth to the left of the picture, now raw earth ready to support, in the future, not a sidehill house anymore, but at best a common "split level" seen behind.

Photo by Tom Cruickshank

Port Hope: Landscape in the Mucking Don't Let it Happen to Your Town

by Marion Garland

Port Hope is not only known for its attractive and well-preserved old houses, but for its physical beauty. The artist W.H. Bartlett pictured the town in one of his prints. One sees hills, topped with churches, rolling back from the lake. Those hills are separated by ravines where trees, flowering shrubs, wild flowers and birds can be enjoyed. Visitors on bus trips through the town exclaim on the beauty of these spots.

But we have lost one of them. The ravines were divided into lots many years ago, but no one felt they were threatened, nor did anyone think of building on them. Now, a builder has bought one and cut down all the trees in the ravine. Day after day the heavy dump trucks tip their trash into the empty hole. Some days one sees huge chunks of old sidewalk sliding down, other days it is just dirt and stones from an

excavation. It is a heart-breaking eyesore. And Port Hope has lost one of its beauty spots.

On contacting the building inspector one learns that 'if it is in the ravine study area, it then comes under site plan agreement.' Unfortunately we have experienced a little trouble with these site plan agreements. One man whose beautiful old home has been surrounded by two new apartments has found that site plan agreements are only useful when the Town Council enforces them. The apartment to the east of him does not have the required parking space. The law required 1.5 car parking spaces for each apartment. But this was not adhered to, and when the Town Council was approached all they could say was that the apartment was built and there was not enough room on the premises.

Formerly local builders capitalized on such ravine sites by building houses into the side of the hill below the street, creating two storeys behind, the basement, like Bloomsbury houses, a lower ground floor. The upper storey, facing the street following the spine between ravines, was often a compact Ontario cottage design or a modest one-and-a-half storey building.

As there was always enough land on which to build, no one thought about filling in the ravine and building on the fill. Now with the influx of people from the west, Port Hope is experiencing infilling, and the loss of one of our physical beauty places. Despite historical precedent for an equally practical and far more attractive solution, this developer has muffed his opportunity and spoiled Port Hope in what appears to be, in the final analysis, a rotten bargain.

Again the agreement stated that garbage from the apartments must be kept in a container that would be closed and kept in an enclosure. Instead the garbage is thrown into an open container which stands a few feet from the man's front verandah. Big trees were cut down on the street, and others have now been planted, young trees which do not look too healthy. So much for site plan agreements.

We must remember that we are 'A society incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the Province, and for the protection of its places of beauty.'

Don't let this happen in your town.

Toronto's Linear Parks

by Peter John Stokes

Introduction:

Toronto was blessed with a remarkable ravine system, no longer inviolate, callously encroached on over the years and, before the advent of expressways, even indicated by one of our noble founding members, conservationist and town planner at that, as an ideal place for "parkways". Pragmatic Toronto took him at his word: if his tongue was in his cheek, has he conscientiously or unconsciously come to bite it?

It seems Toronto is constantly plagued with transportation problems: mobility is important and where sensible systems do not exist other mechanical aids prevail over the individual human being's needs for air, open space, relief and occasionally the sensing of beauty. Two of Toronto's linear parks help to illustrate the continuing dilemma the capital faces.

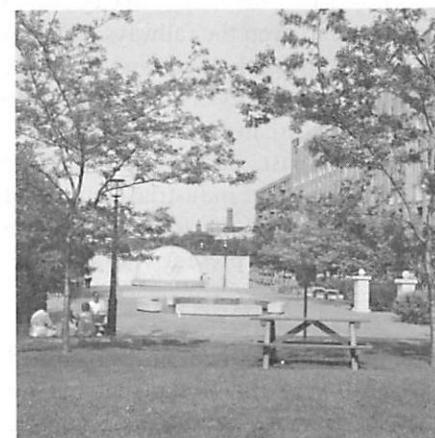
The Esplanade:

Take first the Esplanade, originally a shoreline street along Lake Ontario for which John G. Howard, Toronto's beneficent architect, who bequeathed the city his summer home, Colborne Lodge complete with High Park, designed a park as a promenade for Toronto's citizens. It wandered in a long strip along the waterfront designed as a "sharadwadgi" of meandering paths in the best tradition of the Picturesque with groupings of trees and various landscape incidents. This would have been an ideal place for a stroll in good weather: one can imagine young couples showing off their summer finery, smart, young gentlemen (yes even in that day, and we are talking of the late 1840s, Toronto must have had its dandies, we believe) doffing their hats to crinolined young ladies twirling their parasols, or families with pa and ma pushing a pram and trailed by a bevy of aspiring progeny. A place to sit and gossip, to look at the harbour and schooners and steamers on the lake. You don't believe it ever was thought of: let me tell you Toronto in the 1840s had aspirations, thanks to its citizens and at least one architect, its dreams however, never to be realized, and it seems not likely to be regained in their entirety.

What happened? That blessing in disguise the railway arrived, its perfect access to Toronto across its waterfront, and the Esplanade was killed. For years it was filled with railway tracks and even one or two handsome structures were built along its length, witness a survivor in the Gooderham and Worts distillery towards the eastern end. Others are recorded in Eric Arthur's *No Mean City*, but long since gone as has the handsome wooden arched Great Western Station by Cumberland and Storm which became a fruit market where the O'Keefe Centre now stands. Many of you will remember the freight cars standing along the Esplanade's length. For the main tracks were elevated in front of it earlier in this century to serve the new Union Station, to cut off the Esplanade forever from its original setting and to make many people wonder, particularly newcomers, how it came to get its name.

Further filling in of the harbour alienated the Esplanade even more, the Gardiner Expressway the final *coup de grace*. Building clutched at the waterfront sites made available and the citizens of Toronto lost their right and privilege to progress: was it ever otherwise?

However in recent years some improvement has come about to the orphaned Esplanade. At least the tracks have gone and now it forms a spine to the new housing complexes of the St. Lawrence neighbourhood, a linear connection inland. More intensively developed to serve the denizens of the area this linear park is a very varied, compartmented scheme alternating between passive recreation and relaxation areas, of low grassed berms or hillocks and more formal



The Esplanade:

From bottom to top - west to east:
Enjoying the wading pool in Crombie Park;
Promenade along a tree-shaded sidewalk;
Passive respite and active area, looking east;
Gooderham & Worts distillery at the eastern end
looking back towards the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood.

PJS photos 1989

"squares" with paths, benches and bedding-out, and active sections incorporating children's playgrounds, concrete basketball court and a small sportsfield: the wading pool in David Crombie Park was the most popular spot on a hot June afternoon. There is the vestige of a promenade, a rather narrow mostly tree-enclosed pathway along the north side of the park beside the pavement of The Esplanade, but the "sharadwadgi" and the lake view are no more. One cross axis, punctuated by a fountain, provides, between the ends of slab blocks and through a broad archway in the low-rise co-op housing beyond, a blunt prospect of the shaggy weed-covered embankment: even the railways have not risen yet to the pink of crown vetch. The park will probably extend eventually into the expanding urban residential neighbourhood to the east, perhaps reconnecting with that handsome industrial complex of Gooderham and Worts, to be recycled, we would hope, if its present vital function ceases.

Toronto might well be a little chagrined by the story of the Esplanade, but no more, let us hope, than by the traumatic loss of its built heritage in the last forty-five years.

University Avenue:

So many of us have traversed this thoroughfare in our travels about Toronto, but how many of us have ever taken it in, that is as a visual experience. Some may remember its earlier form, Toronto's nearest claim to a Parisian boulevard by Haussmann. With dual carriageways and a centre median, the roadways flanked by large overhanging trees, American Elms, seemed a fitting approach to the seat of government squatting in Queen's Park. Perhaps you considered that the trees conflicted with that axial view, but not all of us consider that seat the best anterior and think of the late Bea Lillie - "O, to paint a face, to hide an aching heart", just now.

Come the idea of the *City Beautiful* and the only street in Toronto to be blessed - or was it cursed? - with architectural controls. New buildings were to be faced in stone, real stone, in the early post-war years and some like the Ontario Hydro buildings had been so finished earlier. Others, to come later, like the Shell headquarters, followed the dictum, and it irritates the

writer particularly to hear them referred to as being faced with "concrete" by abysmally ignorant and imperceptive recent writers on the subject, even some from Toronto's *Globe and Mail*. Previously other structures had subscribed to brick with stone dressings, the hospitals in particular. But despite this architectural "guidance" University Avenue was still neither a unified nor particularly handsome effect. And aggregate-finished panelled sides were no better substitute. Not until the sleek towers in glass and coloured panels set in a patterned grid began to arise nearer the foot of the street, beyond its original southern limit of Queen Street, did any sense of compatibility arrive. It is agreed the redevelopment there has been a mixed bag of most of the modern tricks, but at last there is a semblance of a unified design, or as much as could be expected in our current *laissez-faire*, devil-take-the-hindmost development policy. Count your blessings! So much for masonry mayhem and glazed glisten; what about University Avenue as a landscape, very man-made and an endearing product of the post-war era.

The Avenue's landscape is worth review, and needs some comment, for it cannot be counted as an unqualified success. Created in response to the need for traffic improvements such as pavement widening and to accommodate both sites for existing monuments and more, as well as ventilators to the new subway, the well-known firm of landscape architects, Dunington-Grubb and Stensson, were commissioned to devise a landscaped design worthy of Toronto's principal ceremonial way. How many of you have seen, let alone appreciated it, not to mention ever used it for what it appears to have been devised, namely a series of intimate, partially enclosed pedestrian spaces bordered by attractive floral displays when the season permits - which as you know is barely half the year. What is left for the rest, other than the occasional pile of soiled Toronto slush, are the leafless skeletons of trees and hedge plantings, the architectural enclosures of plant boxes faced in a variety of slabs from riven slate to exposed aggregate panels, and the odd evergreen patch.

Perhaps intimidated by the rush of traffic or anxiety to reach the opposite side of the Avenue you have never paused in the

middle and sauntered up the centre to negotiate the many varied "parkettes", to use a favourite modern description. The writer, travelling frequently alongside them in a frenzied rush to get out of the city, thwarted by an ever-worsening traffic jam on the Gardiner Expressway which now spills over into Lakeshore, or rushing up to park in a favourite Yorkville haunt for midtown business, has taken but a couple of opportunities to savour these attempts at salvation amidst the hurly-burly and bustle of the capital city. Regrettably on my most recent foray I came between the decorative seasonal plantings which however made it easier to assess the architectural aspect of the scheme, as pansies had gone and bedding out in begonias was just to begin.* It is all very charming but does it really work? It is pretty as one flashes by the patches of carefully conceived colour (spring, summer, and early fall only), and while the few fountains play, not memorable at most other times except the incidents of memorials, about which someone else can comment!

What does one remember on driving by at sixty kilometres per hour: literally only the block ends where one is held up briefly by the lights. The rest is but a blur: the scheme's arrangement and scale are not conducive to appreciation at that speed. Walking through it is another matter. It is a series of quite intimate spaces variously defined by enclosing planters from knee to waist height in most of the blocks, each section with different floor patterns, most incorporating paved sections interlaced with grass. Only one is accessible for the handicapped with ramps in addition to steps joining the level sections which have to be terraced to fit the slight but definite slope to the street. Many of the ends are punctuated by memorials, set too close to the intersections to be appreciated from directly in front and obviously catering more to those driving by. Each section has a different arrangement, one may be axial planting, with zig-zag paths down the side, another deliberately eccentric to make you pass to one side only. Still others with recessed portions harbour benches, a pleasant humane touch, and some have benches looking out to Toronto's notoriously discourteous rush-hour traffic. But who would wish to brave the fumes of trucks and cars, let alone the din: some do, or so

this writer has witnessed, but perhaps not as generally as the designers would have wished.

University Avenue starts out as a forced connection from the York-Front intersection wobbling north-westwards as it funnels out to the official alignment from Queen Street to Queen's Park just north of College Street. The landscape starts as a small fit in the gores just south of Queen Street, but here trees and shrubs only are suffered to survive. Then the splash of a fountain on the north side of Queen and the fun begins. One effectively hops, skips and jumps through the ensuing mid-street courtyards, the scenery changing from one to the next, sometimes to shroud the subways ventilators or highlight a monument, and provide internal beds and enclosing containers for 'carpet-bedding', the specialty of the parks department and its horticultural staff. Occasionally it reverts to hedges, walls and trees in planters: we saw two magnificent mop-head hornbeams which would appear to be ready to burst their "pots". Only the northernmost panels, which dribble off in deference to the ponderous pile upon Queen's Park, are almost entirely in natural stone, most of the others being in combinations of manufactured facings. On the whole the scheme has been remarkably durable, physically speaking, taking into account road salt and other hazards.

It must be in many people's minds that it is time for a change, but how often is change, especially in Toronto, ever for the better? Perhaps we should give up the idea of benches without shelters overhead and alongside. Possibly we could explore carpet-bedding at sixty kilometres per hour and go back to inclined or tiered beds and plants of larger scale - the castor bean, calla lily, dahlia and Adams needle are architectural plants visible at vehicular speed. Or maybe a return to Haussmann's inspiration and a double avenue of arching trees. For it is better perhaps to come upon the Queen's Park building suddenly, surprisingly, but briefly, and to mask the congested street at its southern end. What a project for the landscape architect or the student: will those from Toronto, Guelph or elsewhere succeed?

In the present scheme the planters, the arrangement of the various sections looks rather like a game of variations upon a theme, small courtyard designs somewhat misplaced between roaring traffic and hemmed in by towering buildings for much of its length. We have often heard the reference to "paper architecture": is this the landscape architecture version? For it is a curious cock-of-the-snoot to the modern city, a piece of Toronto quite mad, an endearing little frivolity that I, for one would half-like to see replaced by some grand design and on the other hand I might regret losing, for this rediscovered part is still *my* Toronto, the city that's now lost to me almost everywhere else downtown.

* There seems to have been a bargain on a particular variety of the small-flowered fibrous rooted kind - all turned out to be blush pink! Pink and green, fit for a queen, maybe?



Looking up University Avenue:
From bottom to top - south to north:
Fountains playing at Queen;
A hop, a skip, a jump and even a sit between carpet bedding;
Masking the matters of modern invention;
Zig-zag towards Queen's Park.

PJS photos 1989





Trilliums in Steckle Woods, Kitchener.

Photo by Bob Rowell

Steckle Woods: Heritage of a Natural Landscape Within a City, Violated

by Marg Rowell

Steckle Woods is a City of Kitchener passive recreation park located near the corner of Bleam's Road and Homer Watson Boulevard in the city's southwest corner. On three sides it is surrounded by industry. Bleam's Road forms the fourth boundary across from which are numerous streets of newer houses.

The Woods were part of a much larger farm of 175 acres, of which 140 acres were workable land and 35 acres were bush. The farmhouse in which John Steckle was born in 1889 was built by his grandfather in 1833. It is a two-storey, three-bay, centre-hall log house, now brick clad. Many of the outbuildings remain including



The Steckle House, Kitchener

a fine barn and smokehouse. Susanna Steckle, John's wife, was quite well known for her fine apple orchard of about 200 trees planted in the late 1920s. Some of the orchard still remains today.

The Woods comprise some 173 acres consisting of nearly 8 acres given by John Steckle to the City of Kitchener. The city purchased 25 additional acres from Mr. Steckle in 1966. The remaining acreage was bought from two Snider families. It is a special treat in the spring to wander along the trails through the gently sloping terrain past masses of Trilliums as well as Hepaticas, Bloodroot, the Five-leaved Jack-in-the-pulpit, Spring Beauty, Yellow Trout Lily also known as Dog-tooth Violet, and the rare Selkirk Violet at the rear of the Woods.

The tall stately White Pine, White Ash, Butternut, Black Walnut, Red Oak, Hickory, Sugar Maple, American Beech and Black Cherry make a most beautiful canopy overhead for a walk along the trails. The Woods are home to a number of species of birds. Besides all the regular birds one would expect to find, a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers and the Red-tailed Hawk make their home here. Other more timid birds such as some owls and hawks have left, probably due to the increased noise from industry and the traffic along Bleam's Road.

Many of the trees were planted by Mr. Steckle in 1910 and again in the late 1920s but some are over 100 years old.

The Woods have largely been left in their natural state with only a narrow road off to one side that leads to a parking lot, a number of trails for hiking and the intrusion of the necessary facility.

There is to be another major intrusion by 1990. Bleam's Road, now a narrow two-lane road, will be widened to four lanes to accommodate the increased truck traffic serving the surrounding industries. The \$2.2 million road construction will cut a 30 to 40 foot wide swath from the woods. Hundreds of large trees will be cut down. The trees that are to be cut will be made into logs or woodchips for paths. The more valuable trees will be taken to the sawmill and some wood will be returned to the City Parks and Recreation Department. The oak might be used for benches

and some of the furniture quality wood may be sold.

The valuable species of herbaceous plants will be relocated from the road widening areas and planted in special areas in the woods.

Jean Steckle, the daughter of John Steckle, appealed the widening to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) in light of the fact that the land was dedicated as a park and the Regional Municipality of Waterloo had declared the woods to be an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources had designated it an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI). Unfortunately the OMB ruled in favour of the widening of Bleam's Road.

We are grateful to the following for the assistance with this article, Jean Steckle, Craig Campbell, naturalist, Bill Sleeth, landscape architect with the City of Kitchener, Susan Hoffman, Kitchener Public Library, and the Kitchener-Waterloo Record.



Steckle Barn

Photos by Marg Rowell

London's Cultural Landscape

by Nancy Tausky

The Forest City

1988 saw, as an appropriate accompaniment to the 'London Reunion' and the consequent enthusiasm for looking towards the past, the publication of a book on the history of the city's parks and rivers: *Putting Down Roots*, with a text by Pat Morden and illustrations selected by Stephen Harding. Ms. Morden's text begins with a quotation from D'Arcy Boulton, who early in the nineteenth century described the site of the future London as "a natural plain, interspersed with small groves of wood, affording in its present state the appearance of a most beautiful park, improved with great cost and taste." The persistent point of the book's first pages, however, is that Boulton's aesthetic appreciation of natural beauty was not widely shared by the majority of London's early settlers. The once sparkling river was freely used as a drain, the trees were regarded as enemies, and an enlightened

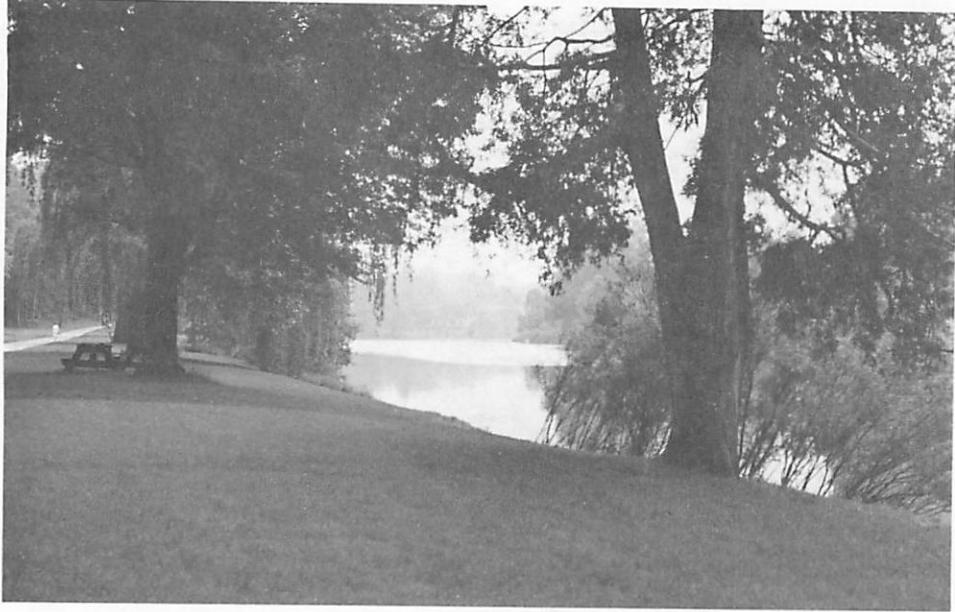
attempt at park-making on the part of Mahlon Burwell, who had surveyed the original townsite (and most of the other lands in the Talbot domain), met with determined opposition:

(In 1846) ... Burwell bequeathed a piece of land south of Stanley Street, between Wharncliffe and Wortley Roads, to the city as a recreation ground. It was to be called St. James Park.

But London was still a pioneer town. Council decided that it could not afford to maintain the land as a park and leased it to Mr. Thomas Francis ... on the condition that he plant trees on the property. Francis planted only potatoes.

The city eventually allowed St. James Park to be divided into building lots.

It was not until the late 1860s that London had become sufficiently sophisticated - and sufficiently barren - for a park to become a high public priority. In 1868 the courthouse grounds were designated as a park, and the following decade saw the beginnings of the two parks that are most widely enjoyed today: Springbank Park, which runs through several acres along the western arm of the Thames River, and Victoria Park, occupying the equivalent of two large blocks near the city centre. By 1882 the *London Free Press* could boast of Victoria Park that it was "one of the many changes which illustrate the increasing wealth of the city and the demand for luxury ... Parks are only to be found in growing towns and cities." Parks, like buildings, were regarded as yardsticks of the city's progress, and trees, so long despised, were planted in sufficient quantity to justify calling London "The Forest City."



Springbank Park: the Pumphouse centred in the misty distance.

Photo by Nancy Tausky

Springbank Park

Springbank Park developed as a by-product of the search for an adequate public waterworks system. After earlier experiments proven fruitless, a satisfactory source was found, in the late 1870s, in Coombs' Springs, by the Thames just below one of the area's highest hills. The spring water was channelled to a pumphouse (powered initially by water, though extensions to house steam-powered pumps were soon added), from which it was forced to a reservoir at the top of the hill. Although the process of laying pipes and drains and digging collecting pools had in fact resulted in the gouging of the springs landscape, the environs of the pumphouse very quickly became a popular terminus for river excursions, and a building a few yards away

became a pavilion where boaters could dance and dine. A tragic steamboat accident in 1881 temporarily dampened enthusiasm for the trip: hundreds were killed when the *Victoria* overturned enroute upstream. But by the 1890s interest in the area had revived to the extent that the Board of Water Commissioners began to gravel paths, plant shade trees, provide benches and swings - in short, to landscape the area as the park the public had already decreed it to be. The reservoir above Springbank Park now holds water from Lake Huron, the pavilion has been succeeded by a children's fantasyland called "Storybook Gardens", and cement paths and roads pass through the carefully manicured grounds. But one of the old



Bird's-eye view of Victoria Park, from Methodist Church. From *Illustrated London* by Archie Bremner (London, 1897).

collecting pools still serves as a reminder of the park's original purpose, and the two first pumphouses, designed in the form of Ontario Cottages by William Robinson (1878) and Thomas Tracy (1882), still serve as picturesque features in their scenic setting.

Victoria Park

While Springbank Park provides evidence of a popular determination to create a park where none was intended, Victoria Park exemplifies a well-planned park that met initially with a certain amount of resistance. In the early 1870s the City of London negotiated a complicated land trade with the Federal Government whereby London received the equivalent of four major city blocks formerly occupied by the British Garrison in return for what was initially conceived as a new militia site east of the city, on a property known as "Salter's Grove". Considerable controversy raged over proposed uses of the downtown property. Brewer and politician John Carling acted as a spokesman for the winning position when he advocated using two of the four blocks as a park: "Let us go to work and provide an expansive pleasure ground, a breathing place for the citizens, where they and their children may assemble and breathe purer air" (*London Free Press*, 19 Dec., 1873). Opposed to this view were a fraction of his fellow townsmen who saw the site as a prime location for new building lots. And even after the park had nominally become a *fait accompli* (occupying two of the original four blocks) some citizens treated it as a common instead: as late as 29 October 1888, the *London Advertiser* noted that "cows, horses, pigs and geese" were allowed to "roam at large" there.

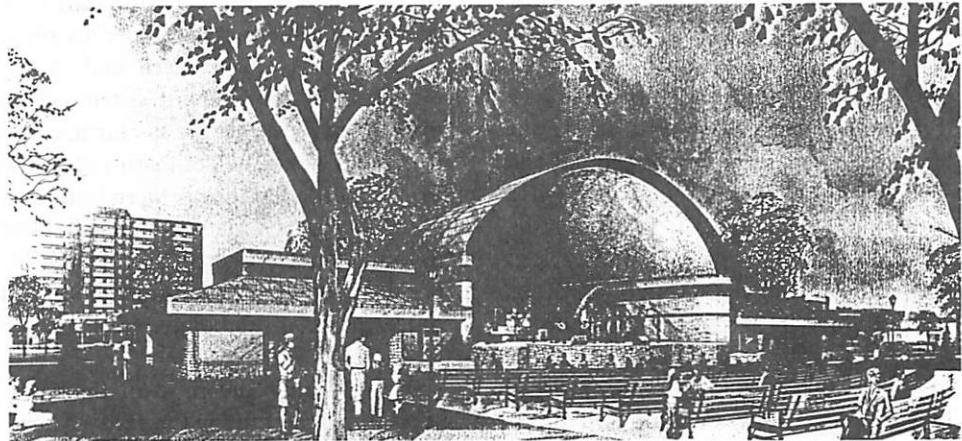
Nevertheless, the cows, horses, pigs and geese had an elegant setting for their perambulations. William Miller, the Philadelphia landscape architect who had designed the grounds for the U.S. Centennial Exposition in 1876, was hired in 1878 to plan Victoria Park. Ms. Morden describes the results:

A total of 331 trees and 72 shrubs were planted, adding to the double row of maple trees which already surrounded the grounds. In 1879, an elaborate ornamental fountain topped by a cupid was added. Three guns, one British and two Russian, brought to London from Sevastopol by John Carling in 1860, were placed in the park.

Later additions included a lily pond and a replica of the cenotaph in Whitehall, London, England, designed by Sir Edward Lutyens. In 1950 a bandshell, built with money raised by the Kiwanis Club of London, replaced an old wooden bandstand.

The Public Utilities Commission recently condemned the 1950 bandshell as 'unsafe', thus setting off a new controversy about the park's use. The PUC first proposed a sweeping overhaul of the grounds, with a scheme incorporating a 6,000-seat amphitheatre, a teahouse garden, and scattered commercial kiosks. The plan met with outraged mockery; it became clear that Londoners of the 1980s share none of the ambivalence about the park felt by their forefathers. In a model example of civic cooperation, a citizens' committee was established to work with the architects and the PUC on a more acceptable plan for the park. It became clear that the citizens involved wanted few changes. They wished to keep the park what it has always been essentially, a Victorian strolling park, with updated facilities for winter skating and summer musical events.

The only major innovation is to be a new bandshell, with a design that won the unanimous approval of the committee. Its shape is modern (Art Deco overtones recall the soon-to-be-demolished present structure), while its materials (mainly brick and copper) link the building to its Victorian surroundings. As always, the London public seems determined to play a major role in forming the city's public parks.



*Victoria Park: Proposed new bandshell
Perspective sketch*

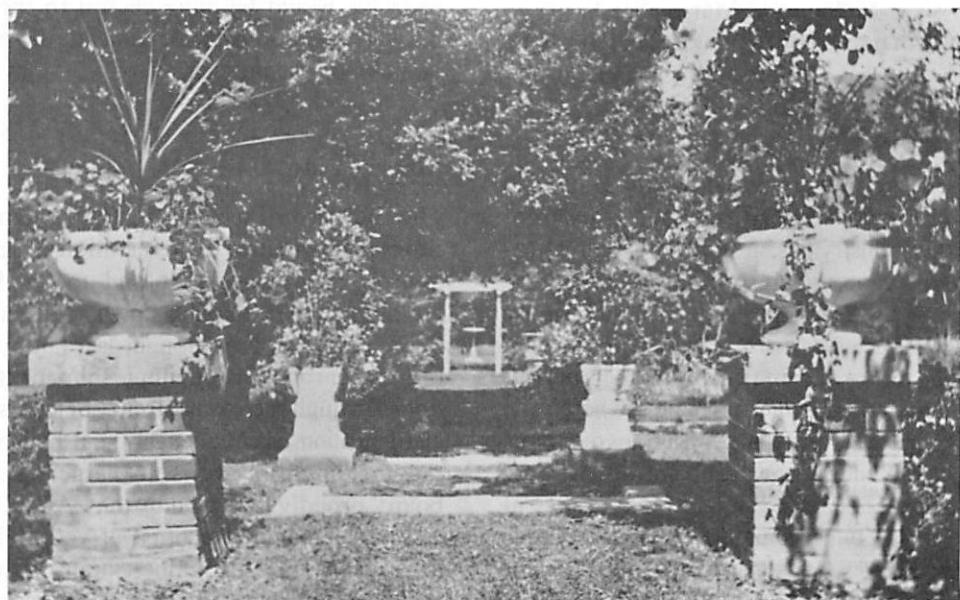
Courtesy Paul M. Skinner Architect Inc.

The Morgan Gardens

Not all of the city's parks have been publicly-sponsored. For 34 years, from 1926 until his death in 1960, Andrew Morgan kept his remarkable private gardens open to the public. Morgan's interest in gardens embraced both his business and later turned to printing coloured plates and pamphlets related to subjects in the field of natural history. In 1899 he began amassing property near the corner of Wellington and Regent Streets; there he built a house and began to establish the elaborately landscaped gardens that were

to become one of the major local sights. The *London Free Press* reported on 25 April 1952 that "thousands of Londoners annually view the spectacular floral displays at the Morgan Gardens" and the newspaper even mentioned one occasion when 15,000 people had turned out in a single day.

A recent study of the Morgan Gardens concludes that there were five gardens, linked by paths, a road, overhanging trees, and the numerous ornamental structures - fountains, benches, urns, brick



A vista in the Morgan Gardens, 1932.

posts, summer houses and observation shelters - found throughout the entire complex. The focal point of the Lower Terrace, directly behind the house, was a fountain, surrounded by iris, hosta, day lilies, and ornamental grasses, and, beyond them, various trees. A gate through a hydrangea hedge led to the Rock Garden, dominated by yews, juniper, and various bulbs and perennials. Above the Rock Garden a very formal composition of trellises and arbours was grouped around a tall Corinthian column that Mr. Morgan had salvaged from a downtown hotel. Cutting Beds were laid out in a series of rectangles that contained 200 varieties of

tulips and 80 of iris, as well as daffodils, peonies, day lilies, and numerous other perennials. At the eastern end of the Gardens was the Orchard, a remnant of the property's former use as a farm, with a fish pond along its southern edge. The Ponds, bordering the northern boundary of the Morgan Gardens, contained a large irregular pool bordered by rocks, a lily pond, and, a more frivolous embodiment of the theme, an elaborate bird bath.

Andrew Morgan did most of the work involved in maintaining the gardens himself, aided when necessary by temporary part-time help. In his latter years he made

unsuccessful efforts to sell the Gardens, and then to give them to the city or to the University of Western Ontario. But the property was sold only after his death in 1960. The new owners, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ivey, erected a new house in the neo-Classical tradition, and this required some changes to the gardens - partly in the direction of creating a more formal symmetry in the western sections to augment that of the house. The Gardens have continued to be carefully nurtured, but Morgan's successors have understandably chosen not to continue his extraordinarily generous practice of allowing his private grounds to be used as a public park.

BRANCH NEWS FROM EAST TO WEST

QUINTE REGION

Branch Activities

The Quinte Region Branch continues its series of third-Sunday Architectural Walking Tours, never repeating, always exploring some new facet of the built or natural environment in the area. May was West Lake; June Centreville; July Carrying Place; August the Fairfield house at Amherstview. The Quarterly Branch Council Meeting, at 10 a.m. with pot-luck lunch, on the Wednesday ten days after the tour in some architecturally interesting house, seems to be a thriving institution. January's was at Midlanes' at Marysville; April's at Germaines' at Carrying Place; July's at Kuglins' at Chatterton.

The recording project 'Quinte Tours' for which the Conservancy got a grant from the Ministry of Culture and Communications cannot go forward as visualized, for it was not meant to centre on the County of Prince Edward Archives and that is in the throes of being ousted from its perfect little building and moved elsewhere. The project was to include collections of photos old and new (drawing on and augmenting those already in the Archives); series of display panels; master copies of salable brochures; and reels of lecture slides for twenty-four of the sixty or more places the Branch has already visited. Naturally,

there would be boxes and folders and filing cabinets full of far more than just what would get published for those twenty-four, and secretarial services were visualized, to dovetail the work with that of the Archives, being employed to set up and index all this and integrate it as a part of the Archives' ongoing functions. But your correspondent has quit the Archives in protest at the move, and anyway there would be no way of carrying the project on through this year's time of upheaval. Belleville would be more central to the Branch's operation; maybe someone there can take up the project.

Master Feeds

The Stevenson Block on Picton's Main Street seems assured of preservation, after a protracted struggle. It and the mill building behind, making up the Master Feeds complex, were bought last fall by the owner of the doughnut shop next door. Though there was a frenzy of letters and delegations when he bought it, and though the building still wears its large date board, proudly presented by the LACAC several years ago in a burst of youthful enthusiasm (LACAC's finest hour, with the Mayor and other dignitaries tramping through a blizzard to help make the

presentation), still this developer, on applying for a demolition permit, professed not to have known that the building was of any importance.¹ Town and county officials were all humble apology that his scheme should have been held up anyway, and at the end of the meeting where LACAC voted against designation under Ontario's Heritage Act, the county administrator told the developer that he personally would be completely satisfied if, in levelling and re-developing the site some feature recalling the Stevenson Block could be incorporated. The developer said that it would cost him extra but he would do it. Fortunately, architect Brian Clarke and several others were as keen on the huge 1917 mill building behind as all true preservationists are on the 1835 commercial building in front. They found an investor to buy it all, and they developed a plan for shops and offices and apartments that looks very promising and will restore the brick Stevenson Block and utilize the massive timber framework of the mill.

Our photo shows the Stevenson Block bereft of several chimneys and lacking its intermediate roof parapet and its fine big front door and some of its windows. Recalling the discussions of façadism in the last issue of *Acorn*, your correspondent has to say that the same rules cannot

apply to a building of this character as might apply to one of the familiar Victorian façades of thirty or forty years later which so often are a mere screen of elegant trimmings in brick, stone, glass, and iron, with nothing much behind. The Stevenson Block is a real three-dimensional chunk of a building. This is particularly noticeable because it is on a corner. In addition, it lacks a neighbour on the western end, so that it is visible from a great way off, all the more because the street bends a little. The heavy-timbered mill building behind is of mammoth size but somehow does not overwhelm it. When the old brick building gets its full complement of chimneys and parapets it will 'tell' quite grandly against the sky. Gentlemen and ladies in the 1830s had been wearing tremendous hats for years, and their buildings don't look right without something of the same. Chimneys, by the way, don't have to be functional to be important, as our accompanying photo of some fake chimneys on modern housing² at Kirkwall in Orkney shows.

The new owners have said they will strip off the stucco and restore the original brick of the Stevenson Block. Your correspondent hopes they will not feel that they must do this. For one thing, the building is on the south side of the street and its face is generally in the shade, so that a light surface is to be preferred and the white that presently exists has been most attractive. For another thing, we fear that if the brick is of the county's usual soft variety it was likely in bad shape before it was covered and anyway could not be stripped without the gravest damage. The owners should look at masonry buildings in Scotland, which are as frequently roughcast or 'harled' as not. In fact, your correspondent can assert, from recent examination of the case, that the chief occupation in Scotland this spring appears to be taking the harling off walls that already have it and putting it on walls that don't, and the suppliers of scaffolding must be in seventh heaven. What we mean to say is that a masonry building, even of quite respectable antiquity and even in so nationalistic and tourist-oriented a country as Scotland, need not at all times expose its bare bones, and a coat of whitewash can be altogether appropriate and pleasing.



Master Feeds: The Stevenson Block, Main Street, Picton. Skyline features and original entrance need attention.

Ed. Comment:

1. The Stevenson Block is featured prominently in the Picton section of *The Settler's Dream* as PI - 32, pages 220-222.
2. But these are attached to *real* buildings, not boomtown bulkheads like those of the new "design centre" at Brock Road and Highway 401 in Pickering.



Chimneys don't have to be functional to be important. Modern housing from tower of Bishop's Palace, Kirkwall, Orkney.



Harling is quite respectable in Scotland: "Tankerness House", Kirkwall, Orkney.

Photos by R.C. Greig

Loyalist Parkway

The Loyalist Parkway runs the length of our Quinte Region Branch's area, and the Branch has a seat on the Ministry of Transportation's Group of Advisors that functions in place of a parkway commission. This seat is ably filled just now by Gilles Miramontes, who is always ready to fight for any building (such as the Stevenson Block in Picton) or landscape feature along that route.

Lily Inglis designed a handsome gateway of stone and wrought iron which was erected in 1984 at Amherstview, towards the Kingston end of the Parkway, and one might reasonably have expected to see something similar at Carrying Place or some other point towards the Trenton end. But even as the Queen was dedicating this impressive entrance at the one end, Ontario Hydro was preparing to line some miles of the Parkway, from Conseccon to Carrying Place, at the other end with new and larger wooden poles. These giant-sized poles, quite out of scale with the gently rolling landscape, carry telephone wires and local electric service as well as the high tension lines that used to follow the railroad right of way. We are told that the railroad has become sticky about letting Hydro have access to lines on their right of way. We are also told we should be grateful that the utilities are now all on one set of poles, carefully placed on the side of the road away from the view over the water. We are only surprised not to see gas lines swinging from the poles along with the rest.

The Ministry, rather than tackle Ontario Hydro, are (it seems) ignobly seeking to get the western entrance feature of the

Parkway built at Conseccon and so avoid this unsightly stretch of road. But shortening the Parkway is no answer, for the poles will still be there, and there can be no excuse for having them on a parkway or on any other road. We realize that high-tension wires can't be buried economically,* technology being what it is. If they can't follow the railroad tracks as they always did, then they should march cross-country where they will be least noticeable. Local electric service and phone lines can of course be buried perfectly well, along with any gas lines.

*Ed Note: Except in Europe and in some other civilized parts of the world, including the occasional North American downtown.

West Lake

On its May tour of West Lake, the Quinte Region Branch were led to consider the relation between people and landscape. The well-tended farms and nice old brick farmhouses are being shouldered aside by enormous trailer parks and tourist developments and year-round or retirement homes near the water.

In truth though, with the famous Sandbanks right there, this has always been a tourist resort. People were driving out from Picton to visit the sand hills in the 1830s, and summer resort hotels and boarding houses were very much in vogue by the 1870s. Here is part of the description of the place from Belden's Atlas of 1878:

"The Sand Banks are, beyond dispute, curiosities of no mean order. The northern or "Wellington" Banks are the most celebrated, from their greater height. They are covered in spots by groves of beautiful trees, which form

pleasant picnicking grounds for the numerous parties of tourists and pleasure seekers during the summer season. In other places, the bare white sand glittering in the sunlight presents a curious and agreeable contrast to the variegated foliage of its many natural parks; while these, with the blue waters of West Lake at their feet, and the sea-green of Lake Ontario, dotted with snow-white sails, and covered with the ethereal blue of a cloudless sky, combine to form a panorama of nature which it delights the eye of the artist to rest upon.

... There is a magnificent wide and sandy beach stretching from the Banks into the lake on either side, forming a most delightful place for bathing; and it is in the contemplation of some of the enterprising citizens of Picton to build a large summer hotel here, in which case "The Banks" will undoubtedly become a highly popular summer resort, and fashionable watering-place."

Our tour visited the site of Lakeshore Lodge, on as beautiful a day as any tourist promoter could wish. The empty shell of the hotel had finally burned in 1983 after much fanfare about multi-million-dollar government development of the facility, and nothing has been done since, though it is part of the present Sandbanks Provincial Park. The original building, shown on a map, in Belden's Atlas, seems (according to *The Settler's Dream*, page 130) to have been built by a resident of California about 1876 - a lot of grand ideas have emanated from California, haven't they -and the description in Belden will then perhaps apply to the enlargement that took place under local auspices in 1879.

PORT HOPE

ACO Has a New Home

Our branch is proud to announce that we now have a *bona fide* office - a place for our meetings and a depository for our files. We've rented part of the second floor in the Horner Building (see story below) in the heart of Port Hope's downtown core, and are thrilled to have a permanent home. Not only does the converted apartment have a board room, storage and offices, but we're setting a good example

to others by putting a vacant downtown space to good use. Thanks must go to Sandra Murray and her committee for their tireless efforts in making the new rooms feel like home.

Considering Remax

It's been a year or so since the shopfront on the old downtown block at Cavan and Walton was revised by its current occupant,

Remax Realty, but the results haven't weathered any better with age. Although the new configuration pays lip service to traditional forms, its arcaded front is almost as far removed from real historical accuracy as aluminum siding and snap-in window muntins. Critics dismiss the arched windows, awnings and reclaimed brick as 'cute' and 'trendy', and wonder why a

treatment more sympathetic to the building's nineteenth century character was not executed. It just goes to show that despite its successes, the Port Hope ACO still has some work to do in educating the public as to the proper restoration of shopfronts.

The Horner Building

Interest in preserving Port Hope's downtown commercial structures is growing ever stronger. Yet another property owner has expressed a desire to preserve part of Walton Street's heritage. Shirley Horner, who owns a c.1855 commercial block at the corner of Walton and Queen, is embarking on a program that will preserve the integrity of her building.

Like so many other downtown buildings, the Horner Building has been sadly neglected over the years. Originally it stood four floors high, like its twin next-door neighbour, but by the 1930s persistent water problems forced the removal of the upper storey. However, that didn't solve anything for within a few years the parapet wall began to fail, which allowed water to penetrate the new roof and the upper reaches of the brick wall. With the constant pressure of the freeze-thaw cycle, the brick began to spall until finally, in the 1950s, the whole building was stuccoed.

But even that proved to be a band-aid solution. The concrete coating proved impermeable to water, so that any moisture that leaked between the brick wall and the stucco was trapped only to freeze in cold weather and crack the stucco. Meanwhile, down in the basement, the windows had been blocked over, so without ventilation moisture was allowed to accumulate, which damaged the timber beams and posts, thus undermining the ACO in response to a plea for help from the owner.

Shirley Horner, who acquired the building only a few years ago, was aghast at the extent of the problems, but undaunted, she is determined to stabilize the building. At present, there isn't the means to restore the block fully, but Byrne outlined a practical plan to correct the major flaws and at least to protect the structure from further decay. Already Mrs. Horner is working on a new roof; maybe someday,



New storefront gets mixed reviews. But note the neat corner logo of the bank next door.

the original shopfronts and other cosmetic aspects will be addressed, for now we're glad to see the block in caring hands and figure the funds allocated to Byrne's study was money well spent.

Tour Our Homes

On the heels of July's innovative Garden Tour, the Port Hope branch carried on with putting the finishing touches on our plans for the annual house tour, scheduled

for Saturday, October 7. This is one of the most anticipated events of the season, and never fails to attract people from all over Ontario. Last year's tour was a sell-out and with this year's roster of homes, the house tour promises to be as fascinating as ever. Several home of different styles will be on view, and the stars of the show are Batterwood, the early 20th-century estate that was home to the Massey family (yes, *the* Masesys) and Idalia, Port Hope's own Italianate villa, c. 1869.



The Horner Building graces the corner of Walton and Queen in downtown Port Hope, showing yet another design response to turning an obtuse-angled corner.



DURHAM REGION

All is not quiet in Durham Region: it is after all on the fringe of Metropolitan Toronto and subject to massive development pressure from that quarter as Pickering, Ajax, Whitby and Oshawa expand. Soon Highway 401 eastwards will be enclosed by sonic barriers much of its length, perhaps the first relief is the lake-side lagoon, long inviolate, which now forms the backdrop to the new GM corporate headquarters to the east of that last city. Even Newcastle is feeling the push. Like Peel and Halton Regions, Hamilton-Wentworth and Niagara the word is GO for development, planning apart and heritage conservation far behind.

Despite the odds, we'll keep up the fight, and let you know of progress in our direction as it unfolds. Look around while you still have the chance for tomorrow it may be gone or threatened like the handsome early twentieth century CPR station in Oshawa seen here.

TORONTO REGION

Where Have All the Churches Gone?

On Sunday, May 28, the Toronto Region branch heard its last lecture of the season, given by Margaret Baily, staff member at the Toronto Historical Board, on the many churches that flourished in the City of Toronto and which are now largely gone.

Unlike twentieth century Toronto, which has put much of its collective disposable income, energy and architectural innovation into office towers and commercial development, Toronto in the nineteenth Century was called "the City of Churches". It was in church design and construction that many of the most prominent architectural firms expressed their creativity and engineering skills. Religious structures gave Toronto many of its most prominent landmarks. Today, with the high price of land and the declining importance of collective worship, many of these monuments have disappeared. Using slides of past and present churches and synagogues, Ms. Baily cast a backward glance at a "kinder, gentler" Toronto of yesterday. It

is hoped that her work will also appear as an article in a future branch newsletter. Some of the churches covered were:

Anglican

Grace Church - s.s. Elm St. between Bay and Elizabeth
St. John the Evangelist (Garrison Church) - n.s. Wellington St. at Portland
St. George-the-Martyr - John St.
St. Philip's - s.w. corner of Dundas and Spadina.
St. John's - Toronto Junction - Dundas St. W. and St. John's Rd.

Baptist

Immanuel Baptist - e.s. Jarvis at Wellesley St. E.

Congregational

Western Congregational - e.s. Spadina between Baldwin and d'Arcy.
Bond St. Congregational - n.e. corner of Dundas St. E. and Bond St.

Methodist

Central - Bloor St. E. and Park Rd.
Queen St. Methodist - Queen St. near Spadina (later Church of All Nations)

Carlton St. Methodist - ss. Carlton near Yonge

Dunn Avenue - Queen St. W. and Dunn Ave.

Presbyterian

Westminster Presbyterian (later St. Andrew's, Bloor St.)
Cooke's Presbyterian - 88 Queen St. E.
Erskine - Simcoe and Caer Howell (Elm St.)
College St. Presbyterian - n.w. corner of College and Bathurst St.
James Square - Gould and Victoria

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army Headquarters - Albert St. - opened 1886, demolished early 1950s.

Synagogues

Many downtown synagogues have disappeared, too. Fortunately they have already been documented through the excellent work of Dr. Stephen Speisman and will be incorporated in Ms. Baily's article.

Unitarian

at Jarvis and Dundas

HAMILTON-NIAGARA

The only Spring event to report on for the Hamilton area was an architectural walking tour organized for the McMaster Alumni Association by the Alumni Adventures in Continuing Education Committee with the assistance of the Hamilton-Niagara ACO Branch. This successful event, which took place under warm sunny skies on Saturday June 3, was attended by almost forty alumni members who enjoyed an hour and a half walking tour of landmark buildings in the downtown core, followed by a catered luncheon in the covered pavilion at Dundurn Park. Two simultaneous walking tours led by Branch executive members Elissa Siroonian and David Somers included visits inside two important churches: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, where major restoration work on the magnificent stone spire is now in progress, and its neighbour, James Street Baptist Church, where extensive interior renovations have just been completed.

Plans are already being made for the Thomas B. McQuesten Award ceremony to be held again at Whitehern in November. Awards will be given for projects involving the sensitive restoration or renovation of a heritage building or structure located in the Hamilton-Wentworth Region or the Niagara Peninsula. The project should be completed or near completion by the end of this year. Nominations are welcome.

The last Branch report gave a detailed account of one of the projects to receive an award in 1988: the restoration of the Thomas B. McQuesten High Level Bridge. This report will focus on another award-winning project: the adaptive re-use of the former Hamilton Public Library which recently re-opened as the new home of the Unified Family Court for Hamilton-Wentworth. The rehabilitation of the old Carnegie library, one of Hamilton's few surviving historic civic buildings, represents the first to be completed of several major recycling projects currently underway in this city.

Finding a New Use for Hamilton's Carnegie Building: the Former Hamilton Public Library Re-Opens as the Unified Family Court

Officially opened with much fanfare on April 7, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony



The former Hamilton Public Library as it appeared in 1946 with its original 5-globe lamp posts.
Photo published in *The Hamilton Centennial, 1846-1946*, Hamilton Centennial Committee, 1946, p. 63.

and plaque unveiling conducted by Ontario Attorney General Ian Scott, Culture and Communications Minister Lily Oddie Munro and Government Services Minister Richard Patten, the new court facility received high praise. The Unified Family Court certainly had much to celebrate

with the move from its cramped quarters on James Street South to this expansive and dignified building. Restored and renovated with a 2000 square meter rear addition at a cost of \$7.1 million, the building now contains six courtrooms, two motion rooms, six offices for judges,



The present Unified Family Court building with its new rear addition and 5-globe lighting standards. Whitehern visible to left and top of City Hall to right.

Photo courtesy of the Hamilton LACAC.

administrative offices and holding cells. The project architect was the Hamilton firm, Michael Torsney Architects Inc.

Designed by local architect A.W. Peene and built in 1913 with an endowment of \$100,000 from philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, this imposing neo-Classical edifice was considered to be one of the finest of more than 100 Carnegie libraries built in Ontario during the early twentieth century. Replacing the first central library built in 1890, the second library was, in turn, abandoned in 1980 with the opening of a larger, modern facility in a library/market complex which forms part of Lloyd D. Jackson Square (the City's major downtown urban renewal project). With the library relocated to the new building on York Boulevard, the old Main Street library was left vacant and with no foreseen use.

Less than a year after the move, the City was giving serious consideration to demolishing its handsome Carnegie library. Not yet convinced of the feasibility of adaptive re-use, City Council passed a resolution in November 1981 to demolish the building if no user could be found within ninety days. The proposals submitted encompassed every conceivable use: a theatre, restaurant complex, convention centre, music archives, senior citizens' centre, commercial offices and City Hall offices and public reception area. Only one came close to realization - Theatre Aquarius' proposed conversion of the building into an 800 seat auditorium and restaurant complex - but after much debate and negotiation even this scheme was finally rejected by Council in December 1984. The theatre group's long-reviewed proposal did, however, serve effectively to delay demolition, and in the meantime, a more positive attitude towards preservation was developing at the municipal level.

With the immediate threat of demolition removed, the search for a new use continued. Finally, after five years of looking at the empty, neglected library beside City Hall and pondering its fate, Council voted in January 1986 to sell the Carnegie Building to the Province of Ontario for the sum of \$1.00. The two main conditions of the sale were that the property be used by the Province solely to accommodate its

Unified Family Court and that the Province agree to maintain the "heritage and architectural significance of the building".

The Ontario Ministry of Government Services (MGS), the ministry responsible for the conversion, is to be commended for rescuing and giving new life to a cherished local landmark and a building of provincial importance. Now that the excitement over the re-opening of the Carnegie Building has died down and the Unified Family Court is settled into its new quarters, however, the success of the library/courthouse conversion should be objectively evaluated from a conservation standpoint, before our vivid memories of the original library building begin to fade.

At the time of acquisition by the Province, the architectural and historical significance of the Carnegie Building was formally recognized at the provincial level through inclusion in the Ontario Heritage Properties Program. As a result, guidelines based on the Ministry of Culture and Communication's conservation standards were prepared and the project was closely monitored by the Ministry's Heritage Branch.

Following the sale of the building, Hamilton City Council authorized its LACAC to monitor and comment on the heritage conservation aspects of the proposed conversion in order to ensure that the condition of preserving the building's heritage features was met.

While LACAC strongly endorsed the project in principle, the Committee felt that certain design features of the initial proposal seriously compromised the architectural integrity of the original library building. Numerous discussions and meetings involving LACAC representatives, Michael Torsney Architects Inc., the Ministry of Government Services (MGS), and staff from the Heritage Branch of the Ministry of Culture and Communications (MCC) were held in an attempt to resolve LACAC's concerns.

Throughout the design phase, the Committee focussed its efforts on what its members and staff considered to be the two most unsatisfactory aspects of the proposed conversion: the exterior treatment of the new addition and the interior renovations affecting the large open interior spaces on the first and second floors.

With the building now in the hands of the Province, City Council gave its full support to LACAC's recommendation to designate the property under the Ontario Heritage Act (first recommended in 1981 but tabled.). This recommendation was eventually agreed to by MGS, and the by-law passed by Council in August 1987. Since, however, Crown-owned properties are not bound by the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act, the designation served little more than to recognize formally the heritage significance of the Carnegie Building at the municipal level; LACAC had no direct control over alterations affecting the Reasons for Designation. Any influence the Committee did have on the final design resulted from negotiations with MGS and MCC's Heritage Branch, after initial discussions and meetings with the consulting architect failed to bring about the desired results.

With respect to the design of the new addition, LACAC was successful in negotiating changes to the architect's elevations to make the façades relate more harmoniously to the new-Classical composition of the original library building. The initial design had a factory-like appearance and did not relate well to the old building in terms of its window configuration, cornice line or window to wall ratio. In short, it was a bad fit. Thanks to LACAC's dogged perseverance, however, the final design was a considerable improvement; and once completed the Committee was, on the whole, satisfied with its appearance and the way it echoed the massing and detailing of the library (without blurring the distinction between old and new). Even the pre-cast concrete walls, which some members had initially objected to, proved to be a good match for the library's limestone masonry façades, once these had been chemically cleaned.

The exterior of the old library was, for the most part, sympathetically treated. Minimal changes to the original fabric of the building were made, with one exception: the flanking walls were moved to the rear where they now form an almost too dignified entrance to the parking lot and vehicular entrance. The required handicapped ramp leading from the west side of the library building to the main entrance is well concealed by the landscaping and is scarcely visible from Main Street.

Unfortunately, much less sensitivity was shown in the treatment of the wide stone stairway leading up to the main entrance, to which three rather cumbersome metal railings have been added. (LACAC was given no opportunity to comment on this feature). On a more positive note, the Committee's recommendation, supported by MCC's Heritage Branch, to adopt period lighting standards in place of the modern ones proposed by the consulting architect was followed. As a result, the front and side façades are now enhanced by ten five-globe lights on cast-iron poles, which are very similar though not identical to the twelve which originally flanked the main entrance and surrounded the library on three sides. It is worth noting that the poles were cast from the same mould made by King Luminaire Inc. to replicate the original lighting standards on the High Level Bridge (see *ACORN XIV.I*, Spring 1989, p. 21).

In sum, the exterior of the Carnegie Building, with its cleaned and restored stone façades, complementary rear addition and generally sympathetic landscaping, represent a largely successful attempt to adaptively re-use the old library while respecting and preserving its original architectural character. The story of LACAC's involvement in the interior alterations and the final outcome had a somewhat less happy ending, but this remains to be told in the next Branch report.

Flamborough

Flamborough LACAC organized a Summer Heritage Celebration for Saturday, August 12, at Chestnut Grove, 315 Dundas Street East in Waterdown. The program included Raspberry Jam Folk Singers, a hands-on demonstration of period toys, heritage displays and restoration information. More about this will be presented in a later issue.

Niagara

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Conservancy, an affiliate member of the ACO, continues to do battle on local issues of concern, particularly with regard to the conservation of that unique historical and architectural resource, the old Town of Niagara area. Letters have been forwarded to the municipal Council and its Committees regarding increasing bus traffic and further degradation of residential areas by their unwanted travel through local streets culminating in a poll of more than 800 local residents who favour better direction of bus traffic. This supports the local Council's intent on writing a bylaw to maintain effective control.

In the process of renewal of streets for underground services and widening of pavements, controversy over replacement of the soft-edged treatment, where pavement merges into shoulder in turn giving way to grass boulevard, (so characteristic of the old Town residential area), by modern hard lines of curbs and gutters

has arisen. Nicholas Hill's Heritage Conservation District Plan recommended the retention of the soft-edge; although documented the Council appears blissfully ignorant of this commitment and it proves how vulnerable conservation, in particular the streetscapes here, continues to be. The NOL Conservancy reacted to this too with a letter to the Works Committee; The Niagara Guardian, Niagara-on-the-Lake's new newspaper is reporting on this and other items of concern.

The Official Plan of the municipality is also undergoing review and various draft proposals have been seen, the final proposal to be presented to Council shortly. The document, very lengthy, very tedious, makes a number of references to heritage conservation which are welcome. Whether such a copious document will offer adequate guidance or hamstring local efforts in the process is yet to be seen.

Meanwhile after the usual two million or so annual visitors to the old Town of some 3,500 residents, the locals anticipate a gradual tapering off of the influx, but not before the Shaw Festival is having its misgivings of the problem "trippers" create, and the unsuspecting tourist merchant gets caught in the gradual cooling of sales, but not the rents!

HERITAGE CAMBRIDGE

Two General Meetings have taken place since our last correspondence. In February, close to one hundred Heritage Cambridge members and friends gathered at the Fairview Mennonite Centre for our Annual General Meeting. Guest speaker, Dr. Kenneth McLaughlin, author of *Cambridge: The Making of a Canadian City*, shared with us some of his recent discoveries regarding Preston's close ties with Waterloo in the nineteenth-century. The Centre provided excellent facilities and refreshments, and served as an appropriate location for our focus on Preston history. For those unfamiliar with our relatively new city, Preston is one of the four communities that comprise Cambridge; the other three are Blair, Hespeler, and Galt.

On Wednesday, May 31st, the Spring General Meeting of Heritage Cambridge was held at the Old City Hall Council Chambers. In honour of the season, landscape architect Owen Scott was invited to be our guest speaker. To an audience of approximately sixty people, Mr. Scott delivered an informative, historical overview of garden design from the past two centuries. Special thanks to the Heritage Cambridge members whose contributions added to the success of the event: Mrs. Betty Law prepared delightful refreshments, and Betty Wiegand and Margaret Black provided beautifully arranged flowers.

The success of last summer's Sunday Afternoon Old Galt Walking Tours has

prompted our volunteers to reorganize for yet another season. In conjunction with National Tourism Week celebrations, we resumed the tours on Mother's Day, May 14th. The point of departure is the Morris Lutz House located at the T-intersection of Thorne Street and Water Street North; tours commence at 2 p.m. sharp. Heritage Cambridge extends a warm invitation to all *Acorn* readers. Make the trip to "Old Galt" and see the granite architecture that contributes to the "grand" reputation of Cambridge.

If autumn is the time of year you reserve for looking at heritage architecture - or if you simply can't get enough throughout the year - perhaps you considered attending our bi-annual Fall House Tour. Unlike

our walking tours, this event grants you access into several Cambridge interiors. Heritage Cambridge member, Mrs. Bernice Barlow has done a superb job organizing and coordinating all the volunteers involved in this, one of our favourite activities. This highly acclaimed event took place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, October 14th. We were pleased that the newly refurbished, turn-of-the-century Langdon Hall was one of eight stops on the tour. As an added treat, Langdon Hall served an English Afternoon Tea.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, the *Cambridge Time* was presented with a Media Award for their coverage of heritage-related issues in and about Cambridge. During the past few months, several heritage topics have been brought to the attention of local residents. These vary from architecture to places of natural beauty. The *Times* also featured general interest articles that outline, for instance, the progress Tim Drennen has been making in the restoration of his cottage on Grand Avenue South. We congratulate the *Cambridge Times* on a job well done!

The old City Hall on Dickson Street, built as Galt Town Hall in 1857 and preserved for the City of Galt some twenty years ago, can no longer accommodate the services and staff imposed by the regional regrouping of Galt, Preston, Hespeler and North Dumfries as the City of Cambridge. Yet its grand Assembly Room restored on the third floor still serves as the City Council Chamber. The remainder of the building is being considered for alternative uses, as space for the City Archives for one, and expressions of interest in such a project have been sought from various consultants.

BRANT COUNTY

Annual Meeting

Members and friends of The Architectural Conservancy Brant met at the Carriage House, 96 West Street, the former home of Brantford authoress Sarah Jeannette Duncan. The present owners of the premises, Thorpe Bros. Funeral Home, won an award for architectural conservation: the Branch appreciated the hospitality of the directors for the enjoyment of these comfortable facilities.

Alan Scott called the meeting to order and, after notes of welcome and appreciation, copies of minutes, financial statements and proposed new constitution were made available. Audrey Scott's seven volumes of photographs of the Branch's activities during its twelve-year history were on display. Minutes of the 1988 Annual Meeting, financial committee and

President's report were passed, noting that the Branch is still in the black, financially speaking. A new slate of officers was presented and accepted, with Marion Sheridan as President, Robert Miss, Vice-President Alan Scott and Councillors Kenneth Elliott, Steve Money, Mike O'Byrne, Marianne Karkkainen, George Brusse and Reginald Schram, and Audrey Scott appointed as Executive Secretary. Appointed Advisory Board members include Paul Vandervet, Michael Keefe (also Acorn Editor), Donald Pettitt, Namik Tumerin, Kenneth Coles and Alexandra Johnston. Appointees included three past-presidents of the Branch, two former and one current member of the Brantford Heritage Committee (LACAC), a former local merchant very knowledgeable about Brantford's past, a lawyer and a graduate

in Art and Archaeology who enjoyed architectural history given by Dr. Eric Arthur, founder of the ACO.

The meeting closed with a social time, refreshments in charge of the new President, Marion Sheridan.

Coming Events

After the pot luck Garden Party and tour of the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Home at St. George held on 2 July 1989 the following events are planned:

Monday, 20 November: Trends in Conservation, Thorpe Bros. Carriage House, 96 West Street, Brantford

Sunday, 10 December: Christmas Concert, Harley, Ontario.

NORTH WATERLOO

At the January meeting, architect Carlos Ventin presented slides on the restoration of heritage buildings. In the City of Cambridge he was involved in restoring the Galt Little Theatre and the Purple Pool Hall; in the City of Guelph, he restored the Wellington County Administration Centre (the former Jail, Court-house and Governor's House).

The branch celebrated Heritage Day in February with dinner at the Huether Hotel, in Waterloo, a designated heritage landmark dating to 1842. Restoration on this hotel began about twenty years ago by owners Sonia and Bernard Adlys and family. Details of restoration and sketch are in *ACORN XIII.2* (Summer 1988). The Adlys family have researched the hotel, mounted photos and memorabilia on the fieldstone walls of the dining room, and operate once again the Lions Brewery in the adjacent cellar.

About 1856, brewers Adam and Christopher Huether, recent immigrants from Germany, purchased the business and expanded the brewery to include a malt-house at the rear. Today that addition is the Princess Theatre, which specializes in showing classic, foreign and documentary films.

The March meeting featured Dr. Jack Pasternak, a biology professor at the University of Waterloo and author of the



The restored Huether Hotel, Waterloo.

Photo by J. Arndt

book *The Kitchener Market Fight* © 1975. As founder of the Citizens' Committee to save Kitchener's former City Hall and Farmers' Market in the early '70s, he indicated that citizen groups do learn certain lessons, either during proceedings or in retrospect. Any heritage preservationist group should set attainable objectives; prepare information - history, plans and laws - thoroughly; establish links with influential individuals, the business community and the public; have the media promote the group's cause; then if possible or necessary, let the people decide.

In the case of the City Hall-Farmers'

Market issue, the people voted for redevelopment! The result was the Market Square complex that identifies Kitchener to thousands of tourists every year. In that referendum, the Citizens' Committee and 11,000 supporters lost - but in a democratic way. Since then, the municipal government of Kitchener has not owned its premises; currently, the proposed cost of \$45 million for a new City Hall in a questionable location downtown divides those residents who recall the demolition-redevelopment fight of the early 1970s. The question remains: Should the fifty-year-old City Hall and seventy-year-old Farmers' Market have been saved?



An aerial view of the old Town Hall, Woodstock, erected, 1851-52, declared a National Historic Site in 1956, and now housing the Woodstock Museum. The fine Second Empire range of buildings to the left was demolished in 1975 on the eve of formation of Woodstock's LACAC.

Courtesy of Walker's Studio, Woodstock

OXFORD COUNTY

Our youngest Branch, Oxford County with its principal city Woodstock, forms a valuable bridge between two others, London Region and Brant County. Other important communities within the county include Tillsonburg at its southern edge, Ingersoll towards the west and many fascinating smaller places like Embro, Plattsburgh, Otterville and Norwich among others, and names like Verschoyle and Burgessville.

Hoping to secure the future of the Hill House, reported in the last issue of Acorn and reputed to be one of the oldest if not the earliest surviving building in Woodstock, a bid was put in at the auction of the property by a friendly supporter. But unfortunately this was outbid by a contractor noting his interest in restoring the building. The Branch awaits the outcome. From photographs of the exterior it was clear that the house had undergone constant maintenance over the years, which appears to have eroded original detail, as is so often the case.



A "factory farm" near Arva, north of London: the agricultural buildings dominating the farmstead.

Photo by Nancy Tausky

LONDON REGION

1988-89 Meetings

Although we were not intentionally trying to follow a particular theme, our first four meetings of the past year were in fact all concerned in different ways with changing landscapes. Michael Troughton, a Geography professor at the University of Western Ontario, initiated our fall series with a fascinating talk entitled "The Changing Architecture of the Farm," in which he discussed ways in which changing concepts of farm practice have altered the appearance of the countryside over the past century. His numerous slides showed how the nineteenth-century farm complex tended to be dominated by the house, which often aped the elaborate fashions of its urban contemporaries. Today's 'factory farms', by contrast, have outbuildings (massive facilities for producing, storing, and processing agricultural produce) which virtually dwarf the residential components of the farm. The rustic, picturesque farms of childhood memories and picture books have become outmoded, viable only in the hobby farm's recreation of what has become a fantasy world.

Our November speaker was designer and developer Hal Sorrenti, who discussed his work in Port Stanley, and the gradual revitalization of that Lake Erie community over the last few years. In December John Eamon and our retiring president Herb Craig discussed the making of the St. Lawrence Seaway and the consequent displacement of riverside communities. Herb Craig had been the engineer overseeing the draughtsmen working on the project; Mr. Eamon is a former resident of Morrisburg. Pat Morden, whose book *Putting Down Roots: A History of London's Parks and River* is mentioned in another section of this issue, discussed her research for the book during the first meeting of the new year.

Subsequent meetings dealt, in various ways, with aesthetic concerns in relation to individual buildings. In February Garth Newton of 'Sunrise Stained Glass' gave a talk on the history of stained glass and its present revival; as an appropriate accompaniment to the lecture, Netta Brandon gave a tour of New St. James Presbyterian Church, where the meeting was held, and of the stained glass windows found there. Our March meeting centered on Annandale, E.W. Tillson's remarkable house in Tillsonburg. Laurel Beechey, a guest speaker from Tillsonburg who has researched and written a series of pamphlets on Tillson and his concerns, described the history of the house and the town, and talked about the efforts citizens there have made towards financing the restoration of Annandale. Nancy Tausky, of London, discussed the exterior and interior design of 'Annandale' and similar houses. Tillson used a plan based on a pattern in William M. Woollett's *Villas and Cottages; or, Homes for All* (Albany, 1876). That Woollett's book was in circulation here is also attested by the Forbes House in Woodstock, which combines distinctive features from two of Woollett's patterns. The Sylvester House was inspired directly by Annandale rather than by *Villas and Cottages*. Mrs. Tausky would be delighted to hear about any other building in the 'Annandale' mode.

The high point of our annual lecture series is the joint meeting with the London Public Library held in May. Our speaker this year was Mark Fram, author of *Well-preserved* (The Boston Mills Press, 1988),



Annandale, the Tillson House, Tillsonburg.

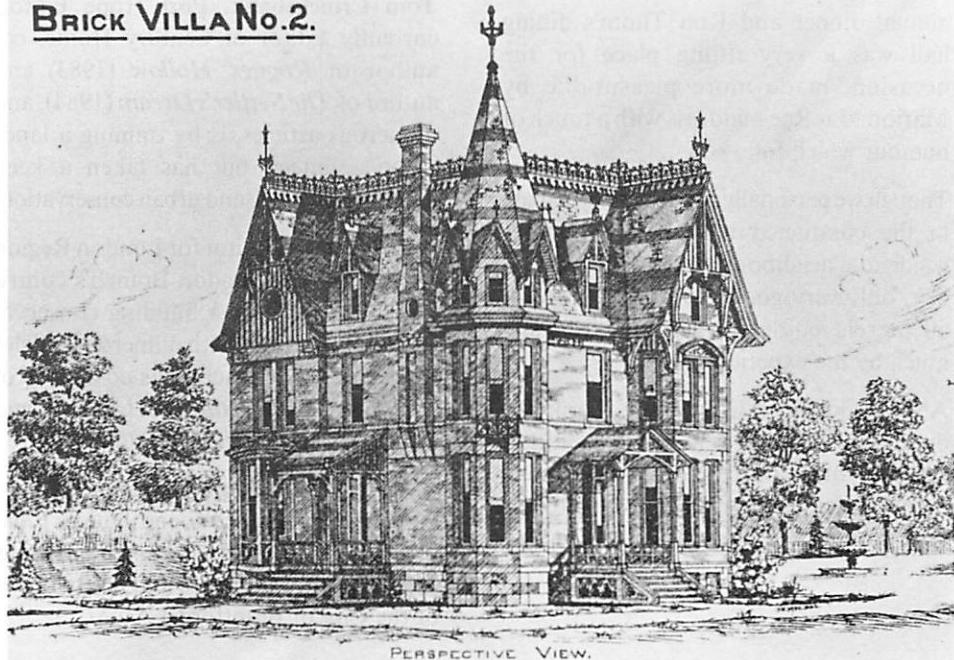
Photo by Herb Craig

who spoke on the topical issue of 'façadism.' He showed instances where façadism had been made interesting, and he used these exceptions to the rule to indicate why, in most cases, façadism is not a successful means of making a building "well-preserved."

HURON COUNTY

Huron County is still active, setting up its program, promoting preservation and at the moment much involved; we hope to hear more of their activity and concerns in forthcoming dispatches.

BRICK VILLA No.2.



PERSPECTIVE VIEW.

The pattern for Annandale: Illustration from Woollett's *Villas and Cottages* (Albany, N.Y., 1876).

GENERAL CONSERVANCY NEWS

Annual General Meeting

Held in late May 1989, the Annual General Meeting was tightly organized by the host Branch, Toronto Region, (ACT for short) the illustrated presentations following a welcome by ACT President, Alec Keefer and introductory remarks on Saturday morning, with Howard Levine acting as Master of Ceremonies for the talks held in St. Lawrence Hall. The evening before members of Council and the Advisory Board enjoyed a supper meeting held at St. Simon's Church Hall on Bloor Street East.

Various presentations of interest included a strangely *sotto voce* delivery by Mark Fram on the speculative development of Toronto's College Street corridor and its consequent architectural expression which rather belied the content of the subject. We did miss opportunities to participate freely in response and perhaps regretted the absence of contributions, common to more recent annual general meetings, made by the various branches to the theme chosen for the conference.

As usual the formality of the Annual Meeting itself was short and to the point with the election of a new slate of officers headed by incoming President Roy Turner.

Massey College was the scene of the annual dinner and Ron Thom's dining hall was a very fitting place for the occasion, made more pleasurable by Marion MacRae's address with a touch of humour which followed.

Though we personally could not participate in the conducted tours through older residential neighbourhoods made on Sunday, only very good reports were heard, all present enjoying them and learning much by the experience.

All who joined ACT's affair thank the organizers for the well-run proceedings and enjoyment and camaraderie that such events engender, looking forward to the next out-of-town occasion.

From the Editor-in-Chief

Façadism

Our last issue, with Guest Editor Alec Keefer at its helm, had a number of contributions, some noted, others not, mainly because the Branch Editors had contributed rather than sought out other writers to help. But in line with our corrected policy we outline a brief background to those who helped and hope that this belated acknowledgement will not go amiss.

Alec Keefer, our Guest Editor is president of ACT (Architectural Conservancy Toronto, short version of Toronto Region Branch), and has over the past few years taken a very active role in the Branch's program, supporting older buildings constantly under threat.

John Ota, now a private consultant in the preservation field, was formerly a conservation officer with Ontario's Ministry of Culture and Communications.

Justine Murdy is Editor for Heritage Cambridge and member of City of Cambridge LACAC.

Ann Gillespie is Editor for Hamilton-Niagara and member of City of Hamilton LACAC.

Tom Cruickshank, Port Hope Editor, currently Editor of Century Home, co-author of *Rogues' Hollow* (1983) and author of *The Settler's Dream* (1984), and numerous articles, is by training a landscape architect, but has taken a keen interest in building and urban conservation.

Nancy Tausky, Editor for London Region responsible for London Branch's contribution, is not only a building conservationist but a writer, with numerous articles to her credit, and acting as co-author of *Victorian Architecture in London and South-Western Ontario* (1986).

Michael Keefe, Editor for Brant County, prepared that Branch's contribution. Relatively new to the conservation field he has been active nevertheless and is a member of the City of Brantford LACAC.

Peter John Stokes, your commentator, should need no further introduction.

The Current Issue:

Our difficulty in getting the latest issue to you is manifold and while I do not wish to make excuse or explanation, taking much of the blame myself, I also wish to share some of the difficulties with you hoping that you will help your editor or pitch in with material. As a volunteer it is difficult to find the time to write, to edit, to proof read and set up any publication, no matter how simple and straightforward it may appear. It is nevertheless a thwarted joy, as most contributors feel. But if the material does not come in on time, the whole process is thrown badly out of step and further preparation for delivery is delayed.

More disappointing to this Editor-in-Chief is the fact that some branches cannot forward any news at all, and all news, any news is vitally important to us. We do not want to leave any of you out: just a paragraph, even a photograph, and, if news is not earth-shattering, (yet the preservation field is always rumbling if not quaking), a commentary, a point of view to be shared, is an invaluable contribution. You with computers and word-processors at your fingertips out there do not have my sympathy or my patient secretary's (Ann, my wife if you really want to know) who labour on hard-to-read, hand-written copy.

This Year's Final Issue:

Yes we had hoped to give you four issues this year. To do so we would have required a sponsor for the fourth most likely, for our budget covers only three issues per year at present. (This is also a plea for your contribution to the Acorn Endowment Fund, any time you can make it). However with the time now restricted and budget in mind we shall try only for *ACORN XIV - 3*, a winter number with Schools as its theme.

For those Editors who have so faithfully contributed *on time* and have sent their copy already for XIV - 3, please feel free, with this respite, to improve or revise your material. Many thanks for your help and your continued and punctual, support.

The New Format:

Finally I should mention, to echo our President's note, that the Acorn Committee is responsible for the newer look of Acorn's format, yet I take full responsibility for any faults or default this current issue exhibits. My inclination was to deliver the various pieces to the most helpful and vociferous to put together in this issue's final form: had time permitted, this would have happened. So watch out next time for further developments.

PJS

The Advisory Board

From a report of the Advisory Board to Council September 9, 1989 presented by Committee Chairman William J. Moffet.

As a first step in my efforts to improve communications to Board members, I wrote to all members in late July.

At the request of the Toronto Branch, I have prepared a report on the Mortuary Chapel in St. Michael's Cemetery located at Yonge and St. Clair in Toronto. This has been forwarded to Mr. Alec Keefer.

Tony Butler has prepared a report on the Levi Perry House in Woodstock at the request of the new Oxford County Branch and this was forwarded directly to Mr. Edwin Bennett on 7 July 1989.

In June, we wrote to the Bobcaygeon and District Historical Society, who had contacted Alec Keefer regarding the 1874 Bobcaygeon Town Hall. We extended our support for their efforts to preserve it, but have had no further response.

In July at the request of Mr. Terry Carter, Editor of the Newmarket Town Crier, we asked Howard Chapman to prepare a report on four threatened buildings in Newmarket:

Bonshaw Residence
Dawson Manor Residence
Office Specialty Factory
and Dixon Pencil (former Cone's Woodenware) factory

The report is expected shortly.

Also in July, at the request of Dorothy

Reain, North Dumfries LACAC, we have asked Chris Borgal to prepare a report on two stone outbuildings located at Hwy 97 and Regional Road 50, and await receipt of that report.

In early July we were contacted by Thos. G. Browne, secretary of the William Morris Society, regarding assistance in stopping unsympathetic additions to St. Thomas Anglican Church in St. Catharines. We discussed this with Peter John Stokes and Norman MacDonald, local Architect, and both advised that this was substantially a *fait accompli* and we have gone no further, but will reply formally to Mr. Browne.

In late August, we were contacted by Mr. Lee McKitrick of Oshawa, who requested appraisal of a 1900 industrial building in Oshawa. This is now unoccupied and is the last of the early industrial building within the old City of Oshawa. We have yet to respond formally to this.

Also in late August, we received a letter from the Ministry of Highways for a review of a section of Hwy 17, Village of Cobden and this will be receiving our response.

AROUND AND ABOUT ONTARIO

Brockville

Earlier this year interior demolition started as part of the renovations to the sixty-year old Manitonna Hotel on the south side of King Street East near the City Hall. More spacious bedrooms being constructed and improvements to reception rooms are included, the work to be finished by the end of 1989. Started as the typical hotel of the period, somewhat akin to the second rush of railway hotels, but on a smaller community basis, the Manitonna has been a local landmark. It never quite achieved the romantic civility of the Revere House; later converted to senior citizens' accommodation after the owner died, subsequently gutted by fire and demolished, the Revere has gone forever. Except for memories of Arthur, its charming Irish headwaiter, who would give a nudge to this apparent undernourished Upper Canada Villager saying "Have another

piece of pie?", which brick-oven baked rhubarb with a crust gently larded with bacon fat was never refused. But the Manitonna has a special memory too, for in those early days at the Village (in 1958), Jeanne Minhinnick and the writer decided to take in a local art show there one day. We were greeted at the door by a majestic woman who largely boomed "I'm, from Athens, the Centre of Culture". And every time we think of it we see, especially in the fall, the Acropolis dissolving into the splendour of the maple-lined approaches to that Eastern Ontario village which had first been known as Farmersville.

Castleton

This crossroads community, north of Colborne, still boasts a mill, once run by the S.L. Purdy Milling Co. and believed to have been built in the mid 1850s by

J.A. Keeler of the family famous for its c. 1825 copy of the Barnum House behind Colborne's main street. Both the mill, and the mill house built by S.L. Purdy in 1870, are owned by Roseanne Quinn who plans restoration and conservation on the house first, hoping eventually to include the mill as another restoration project.

Cobourg

This town has lost another original building at the corner of King Street West and George Streets. The British Hotel, dating from about 1830, but with a later mansard roof of the 1870s or 80s, is being replaced by a modern structure attempting to be sympathetic. The architect Jack Klein has been inspired by neighbouring King Street buildings of the early mid-nineteenth century in his proposed design.

Dundas

Earlier this year the Natural Heritage League presented a number of plaques to owners in the Dundas Valley acting as nature conservationists in their own backyards, in a location designated as a special site within the Carolinian area of southern Ontario.

Edwardsburgh

In Edwardsburgh Township, just north and slightly east of Cardinal, stands an octagonal house owned for many years by Ontario's Ministry of Government Services and acquired in an ill-fated land assembly for a major eastern Ontario industrial park undertaken by the former Progressive Conservative government. Apparently it was to be sold with strict strings attached - to protect it as a heritage structure.

Gravenhurst

Site of the restored Opera House, to the designs of Grierson and Walker, has seen the saving of the old Orange Hall by new owners Allen and Jeanne Sander. Can we attribute this to previous local inspiration?

Guelph

The City has embarked on a \$500,000 restoration of its City Hall, designed by William Thomas and erected in 1856. We have not learnt how much is to be restored, and whether the fine plaster-work of the Council Chamber will be

reinstated or the cupola surmounting the roof replaced.

Kingston

Earlier this year Kingston's Frontenac Historic Foundation made awards to three projects, two preserving existing older structures, a third commending a new infill project inspired by traditional forms and detailing, but incontrovertibly a modern structure. This last was considered an excellent response to the problem of creating compatible buildings within an older city fabric.

Kitchener

As the city gobbles up its rural surroundings the many Mennonite farmsteads which signified its husbanding by those agricultural conservationists who early settled the area, are fast disappearing. Recently a move to save the 1844 Brubacher House on Highland Road West prompted the developer to suggest to the City that the house and its site be assumed as part of the five per cent dedication for parkland. We wonder if this alternative might be suitable in other similar situations.

Lindsay

The county town of Victoria has its ups and downs, including rumblings about the old Purdy mill, now a fire-gutted shell, and the replacement of a handsome 1874 three-storey Hamilton Block with a modern



125 year old building at Rideau and Dalhousie Streets, Ottawa.

Photo by Drew Gragg, Citizen

single storey structure. With a Main Street Program underway with the help of Heritage Canada, Toronto-Dominion Bank's proposal for extension, LACAC favouring incorporating an existing nineteenth century building at 77 Kent Street West, or its replacement by a new structure as the bank would have it, may come under review. This gives some hope for continuing compatibility. The Library, a typical Carnegie design of 1904, is also being considered for conservation. But battles for designation of downtown buildings continue.

New Dublin

Elizabethtown in Leeds County near Brockville recognizing its heritage of early buildings as one of the first settled townships of the area, has set up a LACAC, a welcome move perhaps still not too late to protect its significant and historic buildings.

Ottawa

A family bent on the conservation of their property in Sandy Hill received an award from the City. Réal and Véronique St. Amour undertook to restore much of the exterior to its earlier appearance. The Dufresne House combines detail of the early 1870s, the date of its construction, plus a later, but highly elaborate verandah, with bargeboards, cornices and detail picked out in contrasting colours.

Meanwhile a 125 year-old building, a two storey frame structure at the corner of Rideau and Dalhousie Streets, which now houses a smokeshop and dress shop, is threatened by a six-storey replacement. In the vicinity of the Byward Market, this important vestige of Lower Town's heritage will be missed. Though its immediate slightly younger neighbour still represents some sensitivity the rude enclosed glazed canopies extending the transportation hub of this section of Rideau Street are a sadder reflection of today's insensitivity.

Prescott

This eastern Ontario town has been proceeding with designations. Late last year these included two historic buildings, the Ark at 138 Park Street West believed to date from the mid-nineteenth century, built and occupied first by Fulford B. Field, Assistant Commissary General stationed at Fort Wellington. The other building was the Old Registry Office at

290 Henry Street West thought to date from between 1856 and 1858, in which case it is an early example of the traditional registry office form.

Southhampton

Late this past spring, the Town's Heritage Committee, backed by similarly minded citizens, tackled Transport Canada to have the original cedar shingle covering replaced with similar material on the range light near the mouth of the Saugeen River on the Lake Huron shoreline. To lower maintenance costs Transport Canada

was planning to use aluminum siding. But previously the Heritage Committee had won two battles with the Federal Government department, one in saving the Chantry Island lighthouse, the other the replacement of the range light on the pier with a new-fangled pole-mounted device.

Thorold

Thorold, a small city on the Niagara Escarpment overlooking St. Catharines, has not had a LACAC for long, but it is already at its task for designation. Already a number of buildings are on the list

including the 1862 brick McDonagh House, now renamed Chestnut Hall and owned by the Thorold and Beaverdams Historical Society, and the old Firehall of the 1870s, owned by architect Grant Sauder and serving in part as his office.

Wellesley

Concerns for keeping the old schoolhouse of the late 1890s, serving for many years as the unofficial town hall of the village and housing its library seem to indicate considerable support for its restoration as well its retention as a community focus.

SOURCES

Sources

We are delighted to report on a relatively new source of sand-struck stock brick made to the standard Ontario size ($2\frac{3}{8}$ " thick by 4" wide by $8\frac{3}{8}$ " long.) This is manufactured by a subsidiary of National Sewer Pipe Limited at a plant in Wallenstein, just west of Kitchener. Being sand-struck, that is the face sand-textured (the residue from lubricating the mould) and a "stock" or brick of stiff mud made in a mould, the product resembles Ontario's only other similar material the so-called John Price brick, formerly manufactured by Toronto Brick, first at its east Toronto Greenwood plant, later transferred to the

Don Valley and subsequently taken over by Brampton Brick. (We hear that JP brick is now being imported from south of the border.).

However we believe the NSPL brick is of better quality and the Queenston Red is an excellent medium brick-red colour. The brick has the characteristic moulded look and is less precise than the common extruded variety. It can be laid as an attractive wall, less mechanical in appearance. A range of lighter pinks and reds is called Terracotta. A so-called "Antique" is planned, not the feebly

"punched" mechanistic deformity of the JP variety, but in a deeper purple-brown colour. This last should be checked for we are anxious about the results which may be like some later John Price colours made when Toronto Brick was under German ownership; these were rather unpleasant browns and sooty non-brick shades.

NSPL brick is in good supply, delivery has been excellent so far, and the price is reasonable. Check Mason's Masonry Supply Limited in Malton or your local supplier for further details.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Brackets & Bargeboards, London Architectural Walks in London, Ontario.

Published by The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc., London Region Branch, London, Ontario 1989

This is a small format, 191 page soft cover, excellently illustrated and well-described guidebook based on London Region Branch's Geranium Walks 1974-1988. There are not only good maps, but a fascinating text of historical background and architectural facts to the buildings included. Why not, you might ask when you see the names of the team involved, writers Alice Gibb and Pat Morden, editors Julia Beck and Elizabeth Spicer, photographer Lois Marshall, artist for the attractive cover design Silvia Clarke, map

draftsman Herb Craig. There was also a business coordinator, Derek Newton, for this very well organized and highly professional publication.

The book is full of fascinating information, easily assimilated, entertainingly presented. And the index is a good, indicating also those buildings designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, a glossary of building terms and a short bibliography.

Our congratulations to the London Region Branch for such a worthwhile job so well presented. It is a bargain too at \$13.00 per copy (\$25.00 for two) to ACO members, \$14.95 to non-members. Available from:

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc.,
London Region Branch
Box 22, Station B,
London, Ontario N6A 4B3

Collingwood: Historic Homes and Buildings

Published by the Blue Mountain Foundation for the Arts, Collingwood, Ontario, 1989.

This soft-cover, octavo edition of some 110 pages, is well-illustrated with colour photographs and archival black and white illustrations. The copious and enlightening text is by Laurel Lane-Moore, the excellent photographs by Eileen Crysler, both residents of Collingwood. Some forty buildings are included, most of these still standing, not all without changes, but most recognizable. Many are houses, but important public buildings are also included such as the Town Hall and Collingwood's landmark, its marble Federal Building of 1913-15.

Even the Collingwood Grain Elevator of 1870-71, regrettably demolished in 1937,

is shown, and that handsome functional landmark was likely designed by architect Frederick W. Cumberland, then manager of the Northern Railway serving the town. Both exteriors and interiors are illustrated, giving a wealth of mostly mid to late nineteenth century detail to indicate that Collingwood too has had so far many unplumbed depths.

The book includes a short glossary of architectural terms, a map showing the location of the various buildings, a bibliography and good index. Available at \$29.95 from:

The Blue Mountain Foundation
for the Arts
P.O. Box 581, Collingwood, Ontario.
L9Y 2P1

A dedicated group brought together this work with Joan Fairfield serving as chairman of the Publishing Committee. This follows other works by the Foundation, namely *The Shipbuilders of Collingwood* (1981), and *Robert G. Kemp's Paintings and Drawings of Rural Ontario* (1983). In this latest publication, a pre-sale of the hard-cover edition of \$125 resulted in all these copies being sold.

Toronto Power Generating Station Study

Niagara Falls

A.J. Diamond & Parner, Architects and Planners

This excellent study commissioned by the Ontario Heritage Foundation, and presumably available through their offices, is a thorough and well-organized presentation of the examination of three options for the treatment of this Beaux Arts Classic pile of 1906 designed by E.J. Lennox. (Shown as Acorn X-3 cover and subject of Stop Press in Acorn XII-3, Winter 1987 when this magnificent structure was threatened with a well-meant but unfortunate, if not unwarranted gutting and substantial demolition).

Three options were investigated, the Garden Monument, subject of our dismay in 1987, Conservatory and Powerhouse. The third concept was given the highest rating as preserving most of the original building while providing greater flexibility and increased opportunity for its continued use as well as expanding local points of interest to foster greater visitor participation. These judgements are backed by descriptions, diagrams, charts and figures for further understanding of the various choices, followed by an extensive section,

entitled Background, noting various proposals put forward as well as referring to Moriyama & Teshima Planners Ltd. Twenty Year Master Plan for the Niagara Parks Commission. Here too is an analysis of visitor use and references to other projects of comparable scope, as well as further detail and some additional alternatives falling between the three main options.

This appears to be a very comprehensive study. We commend it for its conclusion that the whole building should be maintained, principally as "a unique cultural and technological attraction that will use the entire space of the Toronto Power Station as an interactive exhibit area". To quote, verbatim, further: "The Powerhouse will be a third generation "science centre" related specifically to the subject of energy, which can serve as a dynamic vehicle for exploring current technology within the historic context of Niagara Falls".

(The idea of the Engineerium was a start in that direction, but the concept received a further boost with the proposal for the Electrical Museum put forward by Kiwanis Club of Niagara Falls, whose members are still pressing for commitment and immediate action to arrest deterioration of the building).

STOP PRESS: GALT PUBLIC HOSPITAL

Yellow Ribbons

"... That the people of Galt will ever cease to take pride in their Public Hospital is not within the range of probability. It best evidences the philanthropic and thoughtful spirit of the community; and the most useful purposes served by its establishment will as the years come and go be enlarged as the result of the added sympathy for the institution among the people who are interested in its development and usefulness..."

- Picturesque & Industrial Galt, 1907.

On October 15, 1989, a small group of people gathered at the former Galt Hospital for a yellow ribbon-tying event. John Kersell and his wife, Chris, organized the event which took place on the 100th anniversary of the laying of the Galt Public Hospital cornerstone.

Be assured that this hospital is worthy of celebrating. According to CIHB information, the Galt Hospital is the only remaining stone-built public hospital in Ontario*. Nevertheless, tying yellow ribbons to the building and surrounding lamps and trees wasn't solely to commemorate the centennial of such a provincially rare hospital. *Rather the gathering was to oppose the proposed demolition of this grandiose structure.*

Earlier in the summer, the Kersells were driving around Cambridge and in the course of their journeys, noticed that the former hospital building was boarded up. They talked to a guard on duty and learned that the building would soon be demolished. Telephone calls to the LACAC Co-ordinator for Cambridge confirmed the story. Ironically, it required Kitchener residents to awaken Cambridge residents to the proposed demolition and to get the 'Save the Galt Hospital' campaign off the ground.

In September the Kersells appeared as a delegation before the Cambridge LACAC. They urged the Committee to recommend designation as a means of preventing the proposed demolition of such an historically and architecturally significant building. Although at that meeting it was decided *not* to designate the Hospital, the LACAC encouraged the Kersells' interest and told them that LACAC looked forward to learning about any history uncovered.

The Galt Hospital began operation in the capacity of a medical treatment facility after its official opening in 1891. Over the years, several additions were made to fulfil increased demands. Among improvements were a new wing added in 1896 to accommodate more beds; a stone-built Nurses' Cottage, erected in 1899; an X-ray unit officially opened by the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire in 1918; and in 1920, a red brick Nurses' Residence to house nurses in training. In spite of these attempts to grow with demands, the building began to be outmoded for use as a hospital facility. Newspaper clippings from the late 1940s and early 1950s reflect a definite mood of nostalgia as citizens of Galt came to learn of plans to move the hospital to a more modern and centrally located facility. In 1952 the new South Waterloo Memorial Hospital came into operation.

Although "retired" from medical service, the former Galt Hospital soon went into use as a retirement home. The Salvation Army had quickly recognized the potential of the buildings and the salubrious qualities of its ideal siting high on a hillside overlooking the city. Operating under the name of "Eventide Home", it appeared that the structurally sound, former Galt Hospital would continue to grace the city with its fine presence well into the twenty-first century.

Sadly however, earlier this year the Salvation Army decided to sell the property and the interested buyer is a developer wishing to transform the site into 'condominiums with a view.'

The Kersells explained to the LACAC and, later to the Board Members of Heritage Cambridge, the unfortunate consequences of the sale. If the zone change application made by Winsfield Developments Limited is approved, Winsfield would pay for the demolition of the building. The Kersells asked LACAC to ponder the considerable architectural and historical arguments for saving the hospital building.

Galt's late-nineteenth century architect, Frederick Mellish, designed the former Galt Hospital. Among other buildings designed by Mellish are the Market Building, the Fire Hall, and the Andrew Carnegie Public Library. Perhaps most significant about the Hospital is that this is Mellish's only known stone-built structure.

More than any other Cambridge building, the former Galt Hospital embodies the philanthropic ideals of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century Galt. Names associated with the Hospital read like a 'who's who' from that period. Almost every prominent industrialist, businessman, and politician played an instrumental role in bringing the facility into being. Trustees included Hon. James Young, Hugh McCulloch, John Goldie, J.M. Lumsden, W.H. Lutz, G.J. Jaffray, Thomas Todd, R. Turnbull, R. Scott, A.C. Fraser, A. McAuslan, and R. Blain among others. Hugh McCulloch and John Goldie donated the five acres of land upon which the Hospital is situated. The Women's Hospital Aid Society erected the Nurses' Cottage, and Miss Wilks of Cruickston Park donated an ambulance in 1906.

Also noteworthy is that the Hospital frequently admitted people from outside municipalities. Annual grants to assist in the maintenance of the property came from both Galt and the County.

Heritage Cambridge recently asked architect Gerry Musselman to visit the former Hospital and assess its architectural soundness. In his opinion the building appeared to be in "excellent" shape. More and more people have visited the former hospital and are feeling strongly in favour of saving the building. One elderly couple present at the ribbon-tying recalled that they and their children were born at the Galt Public Hospital. Another lady reminisced about the days when she was a nurse in training at the facility. Heritage Cambridge officially recognizes the architectural and historical merits of the former Galt Hospital and has currently joined the 'Save the Galt Hospital' campaign. The next steps in the process are to prevent the zone change, to have the building designated and to ensure that the already issued demolition permit is rescinded.

This writer will keep *Acorn* readers up-to-date with future proceedings.

* Two Kingston hospitals and one Guelph hospital were stone-built, however these were erected as psychiatric hospitals - different building types entirely.

Justine Murdy

